# THE INDEPENDENT

ON SATURDAY

## Britain and drugs: doctors say cannabis can cure you, while our worst crack war erupts in London



Rival gangsters are waging what may be Britain's worst drugs war in a small area of London. The police officer heading the inquiry tells jason Bennetto, Crime Correspondent, that the death toli is likely to rise.

Gun warfare involving Jamaican style "Yardie" criminals in London is threatening to escalate, a senior detective warned yesterday.

SHILL

He said that a disturbing upsurge in the number of young drug dealers carrying guns has been partly to be blame for a spate of murders in the north west of the capital. Fifty two people have been killed in the area this year, including two this week, compared with 34 in the whole of 1996. Last week two unarmed officers were shot at seven times on a council estate

in the north west. The rise in the use of in drugs mirrors problems ex- of London and this looks to be burn on Tuesday night.

perienced in other cities, notably Manchester, Liverpool and

Detective Superintendent Colin Hardingham, who is heading an inquiry into four murders in north west London warned yesterday that a gun cuiture was rapidly growing among a group of young black men who were mimicking traits of the violent Jamaican gangsters. known as Yardies.

He said: "It seems to be the thing to have a gun. Just as business people in the city wear a suit, these characters carry a gun or have access to one.

kids will call themselves Yardies, but they don't have any real links. It's just a status thing - its a term that is used to frighten people.

The culture is committed to drugs. It's predominately crack cocaine which is where the

"The gangs are very loose knit. They fall out with each other and are based in parts of Lon-

He added: "Some murders firearms by criminals involved have spilled out to other parts as he left a council estate in Kil-

He added that most the "Yardies" were aged from 18 to 25 and preferred automatic

In response to the escalating violence in the north west of London Scotland Yard has stepping up the number of 24 hour car patrols containing armed officers in Kilburn and advising all policemen and women to wear heavy body armour while on duty in that sector.

The violence has been concentrated on the areas of Kilburn, Willesden and Harlesden. This year there have been 15 "Many of the young black murders in Kilburn and 25 shooting incidents. Last year there were 121 murders in London; provisional figures for this year reveal there have been 135 killings so far.

Det Supt Hardingham stressed that the 52 murders in the north west area include non drug killings, such as domestic disputes, and that where gangsters were involved, the attacks were not random, but planned.In the latest incident, Marcus Charles, 22, was killed

Cannabis can have a beneficial medical effect. the BMA will report next week. Colin Brown, Chief Political Correspondent,

says it could be a major step towards legalising the drug for medical use.

The campaign to legalise cannabis will be given a big hoost next week; an expert report by the British Medical Association will say there is evidence that the drug can indeed have medical benefits.

The report will say that new medicines based on cannabis should be developed and it will spell out the legal changes needed to allow that to happen. Labour MPs who have been campaigning for the ban on cannabis to be lifted for medical use think it could be the breakthrough they have been waiting for.

The BMA report will say that some of the 400 chemical constituents of cannabis can help to control nausea, an important

are using the drug illegally to enable them to continue with chemotherapy. The drug also bas had benefits for patients in pain relief, and there are claims that it can help to control compulsive movements and glaucoma.

The report is based on a reexamination of published research but its appearance under the name of the BMA will give the findings added weight. It will increase pressure on the Government following the launch of the Independent on Sunday's campaign for the decriminalisation of cannabis and the call by the Lord Chief Justice, Sir Thomas Bingham, for a debate on the issue.

A BMA source said: "We don't talk about recreational use because that was outside our remit, but we say that for personal use, it would be better to develop new drugs. We are not suggesting that patients should be allowed to roll joints and smoke them.

The BMA annual conference came down in favour of a. policy of legalising cannabis use for medicinal purposes, but the report will take the camfinding for cancer sufferers who paign a step further by con-

firming that there is medical evidence that it can have benefits.

Paul Flynn, the Labour MP for Newport West, who has been leading the campaign in the Commons for cannabis to be legalised for medicinal use. was delighted by the news of the report. "It is a breakthrough, and it could provide a big boost

to the campaign," he said. The Home Office minister George Howarth told Mr Flynn in the Commons there was no medical evidence that cannabis provided medicinal benefits. The Home Secretary Jack Straw has maintained a tough line in resisting all pressure for cannabis to be legalised, but Frank Dobson, the Secretary of State for Health,

has been more sympathetic. Mr Dobson has indicated that if medical evidence could be found, he would have no objections to cannabis being legalised for medicinal use only. Mr Flynn intends to challenge the Home Office again with the BMA findings.

If the law is changed, new drugs will have to be created and tested before they are made

#### **INSIDE TODAY**

MAGAZINE

Exotic eating: food and drink special issue **PLUS** 

Ute Lemper, Chicago's mature babe TIMEOFF

Skiing in Colorado, 48 hours in Istanbul ARTS/19

How the music director of the ENO is fighting for his opera's life

#### TODAY'S NEWS

#### Blair aide in FI row

Jonathan Powell, Tony Blair's chief of staff, yesterday emerged as a key player in the row over donations to the Labour Party from Bernie Ecclestone. Mr Powell, a arranging Ecclestone's £1 m pre-election gift, and was present when the Formula One organisers sought exemption after the election from Labour's proposed ban on tobacco advertising in sport. Page 10

#### **Bottom of the pops**

The pop music charts were 45 years old yesterday - but music pundits say they don't matter any more. Record sales success today depends on marketing, and high



CALIFORNIA

## Iraqi threats as US warships move in

The Iraqis have threatened to shoot down an American U-2 spy plane which is expected to fly over Iraq today. Extra forces are being deployed in the region. The Iraqi foreign minister said he would 'not be surprised' if the crisis escalated into military confrontation. Mary Dejevsky and Fran Abrams report

President Clinton yesterday ordered a second aircraft carrier. the USS George Washington, to the Persian Gulf to join the USS Nimitz and the fleet of warships

already there, almost doubling the US military strength in the region. The White House said the US would continue to work through the United Nations to "bring proper pressure to bear on Saddam Hussein to achieve compliance" with UN resolutions. The spokesman, Mike McCurry, declined to speculate on the possible use of military

The British defence minister John Reid announced that six Harrier GR7s based at RAF Wittering, Cambridgeshire, were being prepared for possible deployment in the Gulf. Their notice to move is to be reduced from five days to 48 hours. HMS Invincible, an aircraft carrier, was heading towards Gibraltar.

measures to prepare Britain for the possibility of renewed conflict, Tony Blair said Saddam Hussein would make "a very. very severe mistake indeed" if he did not come back in line with United Nations Security Council resolutions.

The Prime Minister is expected to phone Bill Clinton today to voice his support for America's tough stance on Iraq's decision to expel US weapons inspectors. Mr Blair said yesterday: "I

think it is absolutely essential that we realise that the reason we are taking this action is because Iraq must not be able to develop weapons of mass destruction biological and chemical warfare. If that happens the consequences, not just for that As ministers announced region but for the whole of the

world would be disastrous." The Iraqi foreign minister, Mohammad Said al-Sahaf, said meanwhile that Iraq did not want military confrontation. If there were an attack, however, he stressed that Iraq would

"stand firm and emerge strong". He was speaking only hours after UN weapons inspectors had left Baghdad by air, withdrawn by the head of Unscom (the UN commission responsible for disarming Iraq) in protest against Iraq's summary expulsion of six American in-

spectors the previous day.

Mr al-Sahaf attacked the decision, saying that the Australian chairman of Unscom, Richard Butler, had acted on behalf of the US and without authorisation from the UN. Only seven members of the

team remain as a skeleton staff at Unscom headquarters in Baghdad. The Iraqi deputy prime minister, Tariq Aziz, who had spent much of the past week trying to present Iraq's cause at the UN. left New York vesterday for Paris without putting his country's case direct to the Security Council. He did succeed in a presenting his case to American television viewers, appearing on almost every ma-

jor network and cable television talkshow on Thursday evening, parrying alternately curious and

aggressive questions about Iraq's behaviour.

When it was put to him by a television reporter that the UN inspectors wanted only to apply the familiar principle trust and verify" to Iraq's compliance with UN resolutions, Mr Aziz said: "But we must know that those who verify are impartial." And he restated Iraq's view that the weapons inspections and surveillance flights were simply a cover for the US to pursue its own interests.

Iraq crisis, pages 12-13



WEATH FR Time Off, page 2 TREEVISION The Eye TROSS MOR DS Time Off, pages 14 and 26

Web address: http://www.

## **COLUMN ONE**

## D'Oyly Carte sings for its survival

The songs have been sung in the grandness of the Savoy and in the draughtiest of church halls and schools. But in a Parliamentary first, members of the D'Oyly Carte Opera Company next week take the works of Gilbert and Sullivan to the House of Commons.

The company will be singing for survival. After a £250,000 rescue grant last year, the purveyors of light opera to the nation will have to abandon touring without the regular Arts Council funding it believes it

To set the right tone for the debate, it has gained special permission to sing in the Grand Committee Room at Westminster in what it claims to be the first ever musical lobby of Parliament.

More than 300 MPs are expected at a performance of highlights from HMS Pinafore, Iolanthe and The Mikado.



**CONTENTS** 

Environment

Japan World news

European news

Crime

News

**Politics** 

Iraq

News

Arts

"We want to show them what we do," a company spokeswoman said. Or in the words of WS Gilbert himself: "You must stir it and stump it, And blow your own trumpet, Or trust me, you haven't a chance." (Ruddigore, Act 1)

Nonetheless, the choice of lolanthe, a political satire about MPs and fairies, could cause a few problems.

The words of Act 2 could be accurate, but might not prove a winning argument. "The prospect of a lot Of dull MPs in close proximity, All thinking for themselves is what No man can face with equanimity.'

And G&S, which has been performed by the D'Oyly Carte since 1875, may show itself to be sorely out of date in the world of

New Labour: "I often think it's comical How Nature always does contrive That every boy and every gal, That's born into the world alive, Is either a little Liberal, Or else a little Conservative!" Not a Peter Mandelson in sight.

But if Little Buttercup (HMS Pinafore), the Lord Chancellor (Iolanthe) and Yum Yum (The Mikado) fail to hit the right note, the company will return to the statistics.

Sir Michael Bishop, chairman of the company's trustees, said it already provided 90 per cent of its running costs through the box office and pri-

It has received £350,000 in total from the Arts Council compared with £30 million a year for the national and regional grand opera companies. In the last year, it has toured 36 towns and cities at seat prices a fraction of those at Covent Garden.

"The D'Oyly Carte Opera Company is the national light opera company and has been around for 120 years. It's a unique part of Britain's musical heritage." he said.

He must hope the MPs don't know the second act of Ruddigore: "This particularly rapid, unintelligible patter Isn't generally heard, and if it is it doesn't matter.'

12.13

Saturday story

Leader, Letters

Comment

**Obituaries** 

Crossword

Business

Weather

Television

Sport

21

22

22-26

Time Off, 16-26

Time Off, 26

Time Off, 2

The Eye

#### **PEOPLE**



Patrick Stewart: 'Twe been imagining myself playing Othelio since I was about 14'

#### Star Trek skipper to play white Othello

Patrick Stewart, best known for his screen role as Captain Jean-Luc Picard in Star Trek, is to star in a radical interpretation of Shakespeare's Othello which opens on Monday night on New York.

The white actor will play the title role surrounded by an all-black cast in a dramatic reversal of the playwright's original scenario.

Stewart, who originated the concept for the production, said: "I've been imagining myself playing Othello, and in a sense preparing for it, since I was about 14. When the time came that I was old enough and experienced enough to do it, it was the same time that it no longer became acceptable for a white actor to put on a black face and pretend to be African.

"One of my hopes for this production is that it will continue to say what a conventional production of Othello would say about racism and prejudice. It might even say it in a more intense and possibly

provocative way by reversing the usual racial characteristics. To replace the black outsider with a white man in a black society will, I hope, encourage a much broader view of the fundamentals of racism, and perhaps even question those triggers -- colour of skin, physiognomy, language, culture - that can produce instant feelings of fear, suspicion and so forth."

The actor is also starring in the current Hollywood blockbusters Conspiracy Theory and Musterminds. But Stewart's return to the stage will be welcome news particularly for his pre-Star Trek fans. Before his Hollywood stardom he was a leading actor with the Royal Shakespeare Company and in the Seventies also had one of the central roles in the BBC TV adaptation of I Claudius.

Othello, which will run until 4 January at the Shakespeare Theatre in New York, is directed by Jude Kelly, the artistic director of the West Yorkshire Playhouse in Leeds.

#### Lam cries foul as Channel 5 axes cookery show

Nancy Lam, the television chef, has been ditched by Channel 5, she beverled visterday.

viewers for her rude, no-nonsense style, was distraught at the decision to axe her eponymously

titled show. "I think they have swept me under the carpet," said Mrs Lam. "I don't really know why, I can't" tell. I am disappointed because they have given me such huge publicity and I am worried about the future."

The move follows Channel 5's decision to scrap its lunchtime show, 5's Company.

husband Ben, who acts as her downtrodden sidekick.

The pair run a restaurant called Enak Enak (which means yum yum" in Indonesian) in Battersea in south west London and she has just published a cookery book, Nancy Lam Stirs It Up.

They were on the verge of selling their business during the recession but a favourable newspaper review is credited with reversing their fortunes and her reputation was enough to secure her television spot.

Channel 5 confirmed yesterday that it had not commissioned another series.

Mr Blakeley resigned his post

as head teacher at the school in

June this year and now works as

an education adviser with the lo-

His wife, Hazel, 47, a science

teacher at a local secondary

school, described the proceedings

as a "waste of money". She said she was now fearful of walking

back into a classroom next week.

Judge Ian Dobkin ordered Mr

Blakeley's legal costs for the

three-day trial to be met out of

cember after the 10-year-old boy's

father called police alleging his son

had been assaulted by Mr

Blakeley. The boy, who cannot be

named, had told the court the head

teacher grabbed him by the throat

The prosecution started last De-

public funds.

cal education authority.



Mrs Lam, who is from Indonesia and is known for her multi-coloured hairstyle, bad language and treatment of her Ghanaian

A head teacher was yesterday

cleared of slapping an unruly 10-

A jury at Bradford Crown

He had been accused of losing his temper and slapping a boy who

was disrupting a lesson at

Crosland Moor Junior School in Huddersfield, West Yorkshire, in

Outside court Mr Blakeley said:

"I don't believe in hitting children,

I never have done. I think it de-

means the teacher, you lose dig-

nity and in the end you lose

Mr Blakeley went on: "I'm very

grateful for the support I have re-

ceived from the Kirklees com-

December last year.

authority."

Court took just 30 minutes to bring

its verdict on a charge of assault against 47-year-old Ian Blakeley.

year-old pupil across the face.

Headmaster cleared of

hitting 10-year-old pupil

## Care for elderly is a lottery

Inconsistent local authority rules make long-term care for the elderly : lottery, according to a study published yesterday.

A campaign was launched today to promote cooking and learning about

The initiative, by the Royal Society for the encouragement of Arts, Man-

Plans for the campaign include a National Food Week, to involve schools

nationwide in a week of concentrated "food activity" in the summer term,

the establishment of a series of pilot projects in primary schools

in which children will be tracked to see how their attitudes to food change

over time, and a mobile teaching kitchen visiting schools and

ufactures and Commerce, will be called Focus on Food and begin in the

New Year, with sponsorship from Waitrose, the supermarket chain.

The study, commissioned by the Continuing Care Conference and Age Concern, shows that finding residential care, or care at home, in old age often depends on where people live rather than what they need.

Researchers found that eligibility criteria for allocating care can be unsound and vary widely. Rules are not always interpreted consistently or

linked to the allocation of resources, says the study. Sally Greengross, director-general of Age Concern, said: "Long-term care for older people is a national lottery. It's unacceptable that getting

the care you need in old age is down to the luck of the draw. Eighty-three social services departments from England took part in a survey conducted by the Personal Social Services Research Unit at the

University of Manchester. — Linus Gregoriadis

DIET

HOUSING

the market.

**ECONOMY** 

according to MORI poll.

**EDUCATION** 

CURK

NATIONAL F

food in schools.

Homes shortage restricts sales

supply was becoming an established feature of the housing market. According to its Mortgage Index, which measures the activity of all home

on the market, a report claimed yesterday.

House hunters are still experiencing a severe shortage of available homes

Barclays said that for every 10 properties on the market, there were 21 people looking to buy a home and the fact that demand was still ourstripping

loan lenders, autumn is becoming almost as popular as the traditional spring

surge for home buying.

It also revealed that total mortgage lending has jumped by 10 per cent

since last October. The report pointed out that average year-on-year growth in mortgage lending for 1997 so far is 11 per cent, indicating stability in

Public opinion is swinging in favour of joining the single currency – and would be more positive if the Government were urging membership.

The poll for the investment bank Salomon Brothers showed that the

majority against Britain joining the Euro has fallen to its lowest for more

than three years, with 30 per cent in favour, 52 per cent against and 18

per cent "don't knows". The majority against, 22 per cent, compares with

Cooking up an interest in food

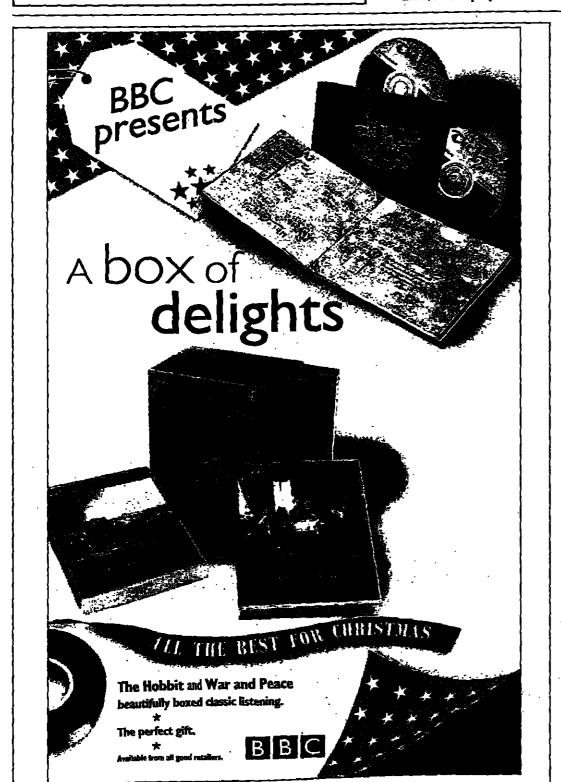
27 per cent in October, with the shift concentrated on the AB social

Public swings behind euro

#### Milk could stop bone disease

Drinking extra milk as a teenager could protect girls from the bone-thinning disease osteoporosis in later life, researchers say in the British Medical Journal. A study of 82 adolescent girls in Sheffield who were given an extra half pint of milk a day for 18 months found no changes in weight or height but an increase in their bone mineral density compared with girls who are their usual diet. - Jeremy Laurance

TOURIST RATES			
Australia (dollars) Austria (schillings) Belgium (francs) Canada (\$) Cyprus (pounds) Denmark (kroner) France (francs) Germany (marks) Greece (drachmei) Hong Kong (\$) Ireland (punts)	2.35 20 58.79 2.33 0.83 10.89 9.52 2.85 451.0 12.71 1.09	Italy (lira) Japan (yen) Malta (lira) Netherlands (guilders) Norway (kroner) Portugal (escudos) Spain (pesetas) Sweden (kroner) Switzerland (francs) Turkey (lira) United States (\$)	2,79 210. 0.6 3.3 11.7 288.4 239.4 12.4 303.2 1.6 e Thomas on purposes





احكذا من الاعل

E. E.

523.

و ميڪو جاءُ ومن من معود 

<u> - :: -</u> 20....

¥i, . . .

·--

3. ...

Spice girl

#### STARTING ON MONDAY

The survey that's going to overturn everyone's assumptions about young people -



what they do, what they care about, what they really want (and it's not spice)



TOMORROWS PEOPLE TODAS Buy The Independent on Monday, and every day next week.



## Do the pop charts matter any more?

its sales

uro

st in food

1 lottery

me disease

The pop charts are 45 years old. But do they have any meaning, either for record companies or for the public? David Lister looks at a national institution.

Forty-five years ago yesterday, Al Martino, an American balladeer with a short-back-andsides and a cheesy grin, grabbed a niche in social history with the first number-one record.

New Musical Express had decided to publish a chart listing the top-selling records in Britain over the previous week. From that moment on The charts have reflected and sometimes even helped to determine youth culture.

The singles charts, unlike the album charts, have notably been less than wholly accurate in charting musical fame and talent. Superstars such as The Who and Led Zeppelin never had a number one single, nor have Dire Straits. Pink Floyd had only one. Bob Dylan, one of the more influential figures of the century, has only ever had a nodding acquaintance with the charts. And in a supreme denial of logic, perhaps the best double A-side ever released - The Beatles' "Penny Lane"/ "Strawberry Fields Forever" only made it to number two in 1967, kept off the top by En-

gelbert Humperdinck. But whatever the anomalies in the charts over 40 years or so, records have rarely moved in and out of the higher reaches so speedily and so bewilderingly as now. Artists can come and go from the number one spot, with their names barely registering on the public. It costs a record company around £100,000 to launch a



MTV and other television promotion. But statistics show that half the records in the top 20 are there for one week.

Jonathan King, pop pundit, just laugh at you."

David Hughes, director of impresario, told BBC Radio's external affairs at EMI, dis-Today programme yesterday: dustry and the public. In the old public has of its sales." days it used to be the case that sales and popularity were one and the same thing." He said later that entry into the chart chart compilation shown by

usually going on an accompa- termined by marketing or spe- submit returns on record sales. nying video, necessary for cial price offers as by the ability of the artist or popularity. "In the old days, DJs abroad would pounce on the number one selling record in Britain. Now they

agrees. He says: "Of course the it took a sale of 145,000. "Sadly, the chart now is almost charts are important. They are totally unimportant to the in- still the only barometer the

Twenty-one singles have been at number one this year. with the changing nature of

Chart compilers CIN point out to a renaissance in the chart single. The highest year for singles sales was 1979 when 89 million were sold. This year 85 million have been sold. In 1992 60,000 sales would move a song to number one. Last year

And today's number one?"Barbie Girl" by Aqua, a novelty song by a Scandinavian group in which a young lady is compared to the eponymous doll. One feels the phrase "one-hit wonder" coming on.

## Smith launches plans for £160m sports academy

Ministers yesterday announced its revamped plans for a £160m national academy of sport. It said the new institute will be the centrepiece of its policy to promote sport. Amanda Kelly looks at the Government's vision.

Much of what Chris Smith, Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, said at the launch of the new academy yesterday was geared towards appeasing the spectator sports which had complained that they were being excluded from the original plans.

The academy headquarters, the location of which has yet to be decided, will be primarily geared towards Olympic sports and those minority sports lacking a commercial

But, in a concession to games such as football, cricket and rugby league, which said they would set up their own academies in response to the Government's initial plans, Mr Smith said they would be allowed to make use of facilities such as medicine, sports science, nutrition advice and research.

But he added: "We strongly support the desire of more commercially based sports to establish their own academies. They will also be able to take advantage of the central technical expertise.

"Every sport in this country will benefit from these facilities. There will be training facilities for a number of core UK sports, including athletics, road cycling, at the highest levels.



judo, swimming, tennis and triathlon." As well as a headquarters, the acade-

my will also consist of a regional network of training and medical facilities throughout the country, with eight locations in England, several in Scotland and one each in Wales and Northern Ireland.

Mr Smith said: "These proposals offer an historic opportunity to equip our very best sportsmen and women with access to the most modern facilities and technical back-up essential to compete - and win -

"Future generations of medal winners will acknowledge their debt to the decisions we have announced today. They will put and keep the UK at the top of international

The Government will choose the site of the headquarters, which has been allocated an extra £60m, from a short-list of three bids - East Midlands, Oxfordshire and Sheffield - at a later date. Mr Smith asked the bidders to make their presentations within the next few weeks.

The first response from the world of sport came from David Davies, director of public affairs at the Football Association.

He said: "The FA welcomes today's announcement. Our priority in football is to lift standards at all levels. The Government is committed to giving every sport the best chance to do the same. Their proposals recognise the importance of sport to the whole nation. They are inclusive proposals aimed at benefiting all sports. They Chris Smith: Concessions to big sports recognise the contribution that football can make - and we will make it. We look forward to discussing these matters with he Government in the near future."

When Mr Smith first announced his plans, they provoked John Major, the former prime minister, to break his self-imposed post-election silence to criticise the Government. He argued that sports like cricket - for which he has a passion - would be forced to accept satellite television contracts in order to fund their own academies. That would result in fewer games being shown on terrestrial television, he argued. It was not clear yesterday whether he finds the new proposals any more acceptable.

## Spice girl effect on City and business

Are the Spice Girls finished? And does it matter a jot? Yes and yes, says the stock exchange. David Lister, Arts News Editor, analyses the rumblings and concludes that girl power has not yet been deposed.

Predictions of the demise of worldbeating pop groups are always made with relish and have been made since the dawn If rock n roll.

The Duke of Edinburgh once found it necessary to defend himself publicly when he was reported as saying The Beatles were "on the wane", a remark which inspired hundreds of column inches. "I actually said they were 'away'," he explained.

Now it is the turn of the Spice Girls. At the start of the week it was confirmed that the Spice Girls had sacked their manager who had belped build their image and exerted total control. By Thursday night they were being booed off the stage at an awards ceremony in Spain. "Never believe your own publicity," pop guru Pete Waterman warned as the girl power champions said they would be managing their own affairs henceforth.

Hubris rarely comes so quickly. But does any of it matter outside the group's fan base, which anyway is largely aged under 10 and has little interest in backroom failout or Spanish intritability?

The answer appears to be yes. On Dolly lolly: Spice Girls products Monday, shares in EMI, the parent label include everything from crisps to toys

fell, with dealers claiming that was a direct result of fears for the group's future.

A whole host of companies from Persi to Walker Crisps to Asda will also be worried. They are among the product endorsements that Fuller arranged for his charges. And, of course, the balance of payments might suffer a blip. The girls have already sold 19 million records worldwide, and their world tour is only just beginning.

The parting of company with 36-yearold Fuller, Svengali Spice, might yet return to haunt the girls. Feistiness and girl power had much to do with their disillusionment. Fuller had become too close to one of his charges, Emma Bunton, aka Baby Spice, and her colleagues resented that encroachment on their unity. He also worked



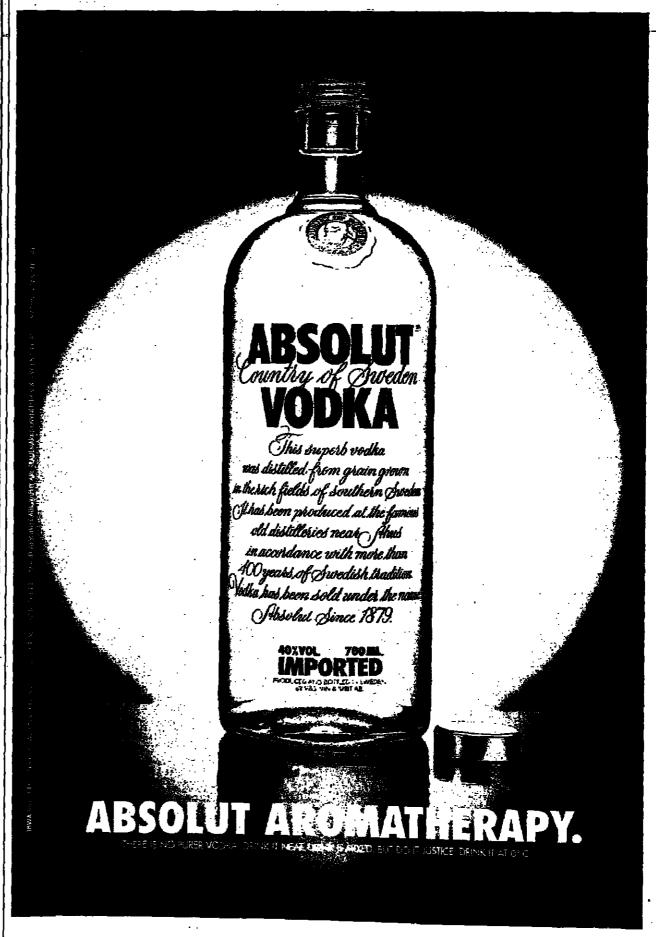
of Virgin on which the Spice Girls record, them extremely hard and told them when they could go out and where they could go, which they came to resent as they became millionaires. Suspecting the bubble could burst at any time, Fuller also piled up product endorsements which made money but

weren't good for the rock image. But one industry source said last night: "These were factors. But the other factor was the mathematics. Fuller was on 20 percent. Work out how much that leaves for each of the five girls. Less than 20 per cent. They have done their simple division. The golden rule in this industry is 'don't earn more than the talent'."

With sales of their new album lower than expected, less than 250,000 compared to 750,000 for Oasis's latest offering, their imminent downfall is being predicted. Overkill in product endorsement, the over-10s losing interest, and potential fallout among the band are all being men-

But that is likely to be a premature analysis. In the short term, Virgin will now step in where Fuller so studiously kept them distant before. They will provide the necessary back-up from drivers to roadies and publicists. Then there is a film, Spiceworld The Movie opening on Boxing Day. It is certain to be a huge holiday at-

traction. With such a young fan base, the Spice Girls were never destined to have too lengthy a flirtation with global fame. But as the parents of all pre-pubescent girls know, to talk of them being finished already is much eraggerated. They only have to look on the bedroom walls.



THE COMPUTER SUPERSTORE

CHOICE TECHNOLOGY

## DIGITAL CAMERAS NO MORE FILM PROCESSING



THE LATEST DIGITAL CAMERA TECHNOLOGY LETS YOU TAKE PHOTOGRAPHS AND VIEW THEM INSTANTLY ON YOUR PC DSC-F1.

640 x 480 resolution. Stores up to 108 images. 4Mb memory. Was £699. 6 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION.\*



499	122 Sta 214
13W 499	10 Str
5499 £499	K 1' 9

NEW DDAK DC120 80 x 960 resoluti resup to 20 imag≅ PSON PHOTO PC600 24 x 768 reso itores up to 48 images. <u>€699</u> NEW ODAK DC210 152 x 864 res Stores up to 19 images. £749



NEW

£199

NEW

€299

NEW

KODAK DC25

CASIO QV11

es up to 96 image

640 x 480 rm

FUJI DX-7

640 x 480 res

493 x 373 res Stores up to 24 images.

4Mb RAM.

MINOLIA DIMAGE V 640 x 480 resolution. Stores up to 40 images. Removable lens.

OLYMPUS C-420L

CASIO QV700

SANYO VPCG200

640 x 480 Stores up to 80 images.

640 x 480 i ores up to 58 images

> JVC GR-DVX 100x digital zoom. £1799 with GV-DS2 Data Capture Unit.
> 12 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION.\*

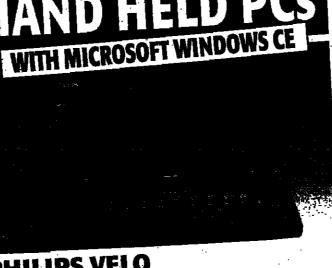
NEW

## FROM BRITAIN'S BIGGEST COMPUTER SUPERSTORE

- EXPERT STAFF are on hand 7 days a week to offer help and advice.
- TECHNICAL CENTRES are available in every store with fully trained technicians to advise you on upgrades, configurations and installations.



BUSINESS CENTRE



Accessorie!

Handheld PC.

Now you can run Windows anywhere. The Velo 1 handheld PC with 4Mb memory plus FREE 4Mb upgrade\* runs Windows CE and "pocket" versions of Word and Excel. A built-in modern allows you to use e-mail and the internet. Includes FREE upgrade and the internet. to version 2 of Windows CE\*.
6 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OFTION.



HEWLETT PACKARD SAVE 1800 Handledd PC 40 bardedd PC 40 bar GREAT VALUE

GREAT VALUE



WEIN PALM PILOT Personal Organiser
Personal organiser
Personal organiser with backst
display, Shirt pocket size.
Instantly synchronises data
with your PC and vice versa, Includes Agenda, Address
Book and more, MODEL: Pilot Personal.

PSION
Palom Organises with Pastern
Series 3C 2Nh backlit organises and
PSNh to Windows, Allows you to
transfer files between your Palon and
PC Create and edit PC files anytime,
anywhere, Intel Separate Selling Price 57/9.
MODEL 3C 2Nh BL + Paleth.



#### PALM PILOT Personal Organiser 1 Mb organiser with backlit display, shirt pocket size. Expense Management software. E-Mail facility.

Instantly synchronises data with your PC and vice versa.
6 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION. MODEL: Pilot Professional.

**SAVE UP TO £100** 



**HEWLETT PACKARD** 24-bit colour (16.8 million colour recognition) Easy to use - one touch operation.

Was E299. MODEL: Scanjet 5p. LOGITECH SCANMAN €79 €99

COLOUR 2000 24-bit colour. 400 z 800 dpi resolution. Wes £119. PLUSTEK 4830 Practice 0.
30-bit colour. 600 x 300 dol optical resolution. 4800 dpi interpolated resolution. Was £149. SAVE ETOO MICROTEK ES Flatbed. 24-bit colour. 300 x 500 dpi optical resolution. 2400 dpi interpolated resolution. Was 6229. £149. £129

LOGITECH PAGESCAN Pagefeed. 24-bit colour. 400 dpi optica resolution. 2400 dpi interpol PLUSTEK 9630 £149

AGFA SRAPSCAN 310 Flatbook LOGITECH FREESCAN Pagefeed. 30-bit colour. 600 dpi optical resolution. 4800 dpi interpolati

NEW

**OPEN** 

7 DAYS

A WEEK

€199 EPSON GT 5860 Fartheri £199 us, 300 x 600 dpi optica 24-bit col resolution. 2400 dpl interpolated resolution. Includes full suite of imag AGFA SNAPSCAN 609 Hatbed. 30-bit colout. 600 x 1200 dpi optic resolution. 4800 dpi interpolated NEW €349 €129 ion. 4800 dpi interpolated ion. Includes kall suite of imag NEW HEWLETT PACKARD 6100 Flatbed. €649

#12 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION\*

enest Free if repaid in half before, or wait the 6/9/12th monthly payment to period stated with the product. Nytocal usarmyle: Cash price ETSOD, at 11 monthly payments of ESO.71 Balance of ES42.19 to be paid before or with 12th payment. O've Interest. Total part ETSOD. SPREAD THE COST WITH 48 MONTHLY REPAYMENTS is not settled before the 12 month option period.

y payments of £50.71. Total amount paid £2434.08.

**FOR YOUR NEAREST STORE** CALL 0990 464 464

CHATILA COLCHESTS EAST KILBRI -CAROTFF

CLASCON MILL LEEDS

LEICESTER LIME POOL ESSENT HOLD PER MARKET NORTH SHIELDS NORTHMENTON

POOLE

and the second second second second

CHROCOFIELD STOKE

LONDON AREA GUILDFORD LAIGESIDE RRENTFORD STAPLES CORNE Colour inkjet printer, colour flatbed scanner, colour copier. Requires a PC and modern to fax. Was £699. 6 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION. MODEL: Officejet Pro 1150c. 2000 SHEETS OF PAPER FREE HEWLETT PACKARD

**HEWLETT PACKARD** 

Inkjet printer, scanner, and plain paper fax. Was £399, £369. Model: MultiPASS 10. €329 2000 SHEETS OF PAPER FREE Colour Insies printed copier and plain paper lax.
Was 6449, 6429.
Model: MultiPASS C30.

BROTHER

ALL-IN-ONE OFFICE SOLUTIONS

PRINT - SCAN - COPY - FAX

SAVE ETOO £699 copier and plant paper fax. Was £799. Model: Brother MFC9000. 2000 SHIEETS OF PAPER FREE

SAVE将£80



**EPSON** 

Up to 1440 x 720 dpi resolution (black and colour). Plus FREE FUN FACTORY PACK includes LivePix SE, Sierra Print Artist and Was £249.

£299

UP TO £250 WORTH

OF PC.WORLD

DISCOUNT

ALL PRINTERS

OVER £200

On la

re

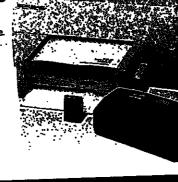
To

whies are

FREE

VOUCHERS **HEWLETT PACKARD** Colour Inkjet Printer and Photo Reader. Scan your own photographs with the EasyPhoto Reader and print them using the Photo Carinda

Reacter and print usern using the Priodic Cardrogic Prints at up to 600 x 300 dpi resolution (colour). PREE Redel: Processing Voucherv. Was £259. Model: Di690C+ and EasyPhoto Peader.





**HEWLETT PACKARD** 

Now you can print superb photos at home or in the offfice without the need for a darkroom or an enlarger. Scan your photos or negatives into your PC. Enlarge the images, combine them, superimpose, even change colours and backgrounds. You can then print as many copies as you like. Total Separate Selling Price £798.
6 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION. MODEL: PhotoSmart Printer + PhotoSmart Scanner.

**59** 

THE COMPUTER SUPERSTORE

لفكذا من الأعل

## Babies are most at risk of being murdered

From watching television or reading newspapers you could easily believe most killings in Britain are carried out by gun-toting drug dealers or mysterious sex stalkers. But, says Jason Bennetto, Crime Correspondent, official figures reveal a very different picture.

s sales

iro

... -, -, 523

t in food

ottery

ne disease

Babies aged under one year old are most at risk of homicide, with 44 deaths per million people in England and Wales, compared with the national average of 12 per million. Women are far more likely to be strangled or suffocated than men, while males are most likely to be stabbed to

Only 8 per cent of the 681 people killed in England and Wales last year were shot dead, according to police and Home Office figures released this week.

Detailed analysis of criminal statistics give a fascinating insight into the true nature of killing in Britain. It reveals that far from being a country over-run by serial killers who strike for no reason and are never caught, most suspects were known by their victims and the majority are jailed.

England and Wales have one of the lowest homicide rates - offences that include murder, manslaughter or infanticide - in

You are more than twice as likely to be killed in countries such as Finland, France, Portugal and Scotland and five times as likely in the United States.

The number of homicides dropped by 10 per cent from the record total in 1995, although it was still the fifth highest this century and violent crime is continuing to rise to all-time highs. Two-thirds of the homicide victims were male, one-third female.

Statistically, babies are at the greatest danger of being killed, usually by their parents, although children under 16 are not in a high risk group. As with the overall figure, children who are killed usually die at the hands of someone they know, not those of a lurking paedophile. After babies, the group most at risk are men aged between 16 and 49 - not young women or pensioners who are often considered more vulnerable. A quarrel, revenge, or loss of temper accounted for more than half of all killings in 1996. Only 6 per cent of homicides were carried out to steal goods or gain money. Deaths caused by mentally disturbed suspects, and where there was no apparent motive, comprised just 4 per cent of incidents in 1996.



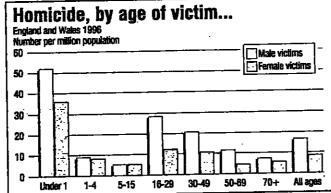
Image of violence: despite the impression we get from television, only 8 per cent of murders are committed by someone using a gun

30

25

20

by method...



Just over half male victims and threequarters of females ones knew the main or only suspect. Nearly half the women were killed by former partners or lovers, compared with only 6 per cent of men. Men were far more likely - 38 per cent - to be killed by a stranger than women - 14 per

The most common method of killing was with a sharp instrument, such as a knife. homicides. which was used by about one-third of the suspects. Men were more likely to be killed with a knife, hit, kick or shot, than women. Strangulation and burning were more popular methods of killing females than

#### 410 offences Male victims Female victims 217 offences have 12 per million, were lower. Northern Ireland recorded the largest rise in homi-

victed in all but about 10 per cent of the

Compared with the rest of the world, England and Wales have a low homicide rate. Of those countries where statistics were obtained only Norway with nine per million people, Japan with 10 per million, and the is available from 0171 873 9090, price males. Suspects had been charged or con-Republic of Ireland and Belgium which both £22.70.

## stolen art found in Lancashire

Ukraine's

Police in Lancashire have recovered two paintings worth at least £1m that had been snatched from a Ukrainian museum. Five men were also arrested yesterday in the climax of police said had been an eight-month operation.

The works were stolen in a violent raid on the Ukrainian National Museum in the city of Poltava earlier this

Yesterday armed officers arrested three men in Kirkham, Lancashire, and another two were arrested by the Metropolitan Police in London.

The paintings are Night Fight: Turks with Crusaders by the 19th century French artist Delacroix, and Still Life with Lobsters by Pieters, a 17th century Dutch painter.

The men arrested are being questioned at police stations in Lancashire. One is believed to be of Russian ori-

gin, the others are Britons. Superintendent Terry Smith of the North West Regional Crime Squad said he had spoken to the Ukrainian am-

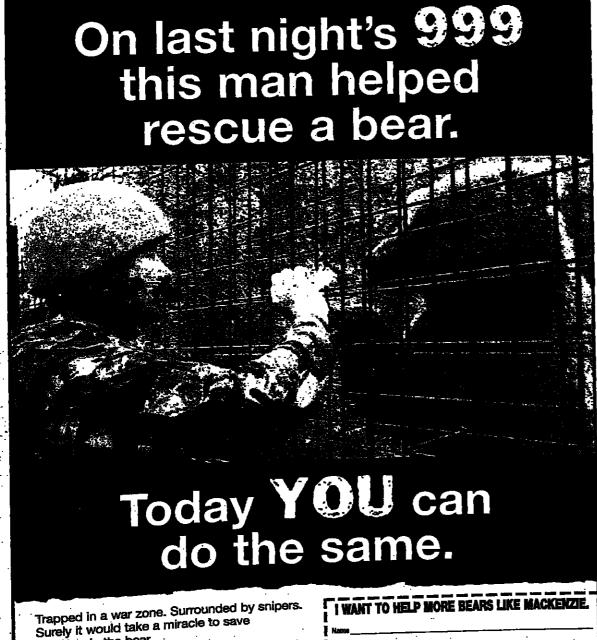
bassador in London this morning. The ambassador asked me to express his thanks for the efforts of the police agencies in this country that have led to the recovery of these paintings," he said. The ambassador added that the paintings were of great value to his

countrymen. They were stolen on 18 March in what Supt Smith said was a "particularly nasty and vicious" attack when the raiders used incapacitant sprays on museum staff. After investigations involving Interpol, British police set up Operation Package which led to the stake-out of an industrial unit in

Kirkham yesterday. Two men arrived there in a Ford Escort car and were arrested by armed officers. No shots were fired and the men were found to be unarmed.

Shortly afterwards another man was arrested in the car park of a nearby supermarket.

The paintings were recovered inside the units, rented from Railtrack, wrapped in newspaper and inside cardboard boxes. They are now being verified and evaluated by art experts.

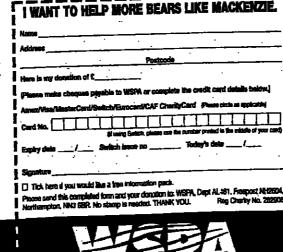


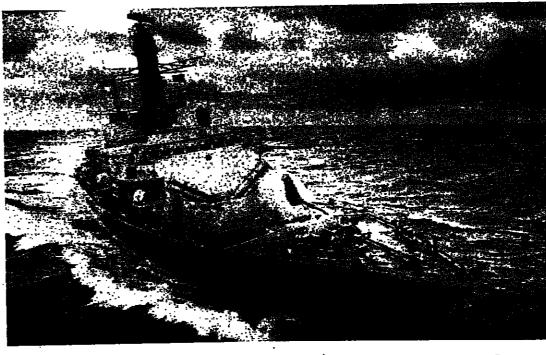
MacKenzie the bear. If you saw 999 Lifesavers last night, you'll know that members of WSPA's animal rescue

squad, together with a team of British soldiers, made that miracle possible. WSPA rescues bears from cruelty and suffering all over the world. Whether they're 'milked' for their bile, baited by dogs or chained, beaten

and made to dance, many more still need You can help us to help them by making a donation. As little as £10 can make a

CALL 0800 616 919 NOW TO MAKE AN INSTANT DONATION





cides - up by 52 per cent - in the past year

to 21 per million, followed by Switzerland,

where the rate rose by 23 per cent.

by country...

#### WHAT'S SO SPECIAL ABOUT THE ROYAL NAVY ENGINEERING SPONSORSHIP SCHEME?

Is it the £3,000 annual bursary you receive whilst studying for your Bachelor of Engineering degree (double last year's scholarship) at the University of Southampton? Or the fact that you can go on to a Master's degree or earn a further £1,400 a year for attending training days with the Royal Naval Support Unit? Is it the Chartered Engineer status you will attain whilst serving as an officer in the Royal Navy? Or could it be the personal qualities you need to get on board the scheme? For surely you have to be a bit special. Don't you?

Yes you do. You have to be academically bright, with 3 'A' Levels including Maths and Physics. And you need to show us that you have the potential to handle the most sophisticated weapon and defence technology in the world, and all of the

responsibilities that come with it. To find out more and show us just how special you are, please call 0345 300 123 or return the coupon below.



Ready to take you on. And on.

Name	Mr, Ms	
Address	·	<del></del> -
	Postcode	
Date of Birth	Telephone	<u>.                                    </u>
For more information and an application; FREEPOST 4335, Bristol BS1 SYX. No st	pack call 0345 300 123 or send the coupon to Capt. A.N. Du Fort R.N. D amp needed. http://www.royal-navy.mod.uk	epartment BC0304
We are equal opportunities employers under the Race R for the past five years	iclations act and welcome coquiries and applications from all ethnic groups. Normally you show	aki have been a UK reaster



مكذا من الماجل

## 7/ENVIRONMENT

THE INDEPENDENT SATURDAY 15 NOVEMBER 1997

## New village menaces Thames wildlife site

The old firing range of Woolwich Arsenal, east London, is the focus of skirmish between builders and

conservationists. Stephen Goodwin, Heritage Correspondent, looks at the arguments as the

new town of Thamesmead prepares to march westwards.

Greenwich Council will next a testing ground for the Royal ties should be no more than 10 moth and the silvery leaf-cutter all borough, refuse the application to Arsenal munitions factory at minutes' walk away.

moth and the silvery leaf-cutter all borough, refuse the application are an important wintering birds.

bee. The insects in turn provide tion and "keep the Green in ground for wading birds. build an "urban village" of 1,500 homes on a wasteground described by conservationists as "one of the last - and finest of London's wildlife sites beside the Thames".

It seems likely the development by Thamesmead Town and a consortium of builders will get the go-ahead. Planners had always intended that the new town begun in the 1960s should expand westward along the industrially scarred

Woolwich. In future it will be known as the Galleon's Reach Urban Village with an eventual 2,000 homes, offices, workshops, pubs, a hotel and leisure

The aim, according to Thamesmead Town, the trust which took over from the Greater London Council, is to give the development the dynamism of a city with the familiarity and "neighbourhood scale" of a village. Work places will be mixed in with the hous-The 130-acre site was once ing and shops and other ameni-

But since firing stopped and the range was abandoned in 1967, wildlife has moved in, assisted by the new town's efforts to clear and cover what was heavily contaminated land. In 1988 the area was designated as of Metropolitan Importance for Nature Conservation.

Fifty plant species rare to London have been found there, including hare's foot clover and thyme-leaved sandwort. It is also home to 16 nationally rare and including Webb's Wainscot responsibility as the Millenni-

food for a rich bird population. "If the development goes ahead it will mean the extinction of several species in Greenwich," said the London Wildlife Trust, the country's leading urban nature conservation body. Even the developer's own consultants evaluated the site as one of the top five sites in the East Thames corridor for

Mathew Frith, the trust's conservation manager, said

Greenwich". London had lost many superb wildlife habitats over the last decade, Mr Frith struction was halted and we hope Greenwich will set an

example to other London

authorities."

Thamesmead Town emphasised the close involvement of the Government's Environmental Agency in plans for the urban village which will include a wetland corridor. There will notable species of invertebrates Greenwich should live up to its also be a 70-acre riverside park wich comes down on the side of at Tripcott Point where mudflats

The conservationists' case does not look strong. The firing ranges are a "brownfield" added. "It is time that this de- site that has long been earmarked for housing and huge sums of public money have

been spent making it safe. The clinching argument though it likely to be the pressing demand for new homes. With the Government predicting another 4 million will be needed over the next 20 years it would be a surprise if Greenthe leaf-cutter bee.

## Threat to Kingston's poplar trees draws the eco-veteran

The London borough of Kingston, one of London's most salubrious residential areas, has become the latest focus of confrontation between developers and eco-warriors.

warriors

Plans to fell 56 poplar trees in a public park bordering the river Thames are encountering bitter opposition from local residents, who have set up a well-organised and vocal protest group, Friends of Canbury Gardens.

But a handful of so-called "veterans", of the Newbury Bypass and Twyford Downs disputes, have descended on the town and erected rope ladders between the trees in preparation for their defence of the poplars when the chainsaws arrive.

The row of poplars was planted in the Thirties to shield Canbury Gardens from a power station, since decommissioned and demolished.

Fairclough Homes, a developer, is building an estate of luxury flats and houses on the derelict land.

Part of the agreement signed by the Lib-Homes was that permission would be estate would have river views.

This has just come to the notice of residents living near the park, who have put together a petition containing 4.500 signatures.

Dennis Doe, a Conservative councillor, said that insufficient attention was paid to the trees during formulation of an area de- space". velopment plan.



On line: A protester hanging from ropes strung between the branches of condemned poplar trees in Kingston, south-west London

Photograph: Keith Dobney

Tony Blair's announcement yesterday of a task force to encourage motorists to use greener, more fuel-efficient cars could be read as an acknowledgement that most people will not be per-

Greener

cars up

to task

transport. As the Prime Minister was advocating a new attitude so drivers "think green first", the independent Transport Research Group issued figures showing that while motorists readily admitted there were healthier ways of travelling, the car

suaded to switch to public

won for sheer convenience. Two-thirds of respondents said they used cars because public transport was inadequate and of poor quality. "Stories about road rage and the environmental damage caused by cars may have increased the stress levels of drivers, but they have had no impact on their driving habits," said Austin Williams, the TRG coordinator.

The new task force will be headed by Gavin Strang. the transport minister, and co-chaired by Ian McAllister, chief executive of Ford in the UK and president of the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders. Its aim will be promote fuel efficient, less polluting vehicles people actually want to buy and drive. Mr Blair said: "To be modern is to be green. I want people to be able to make choices and choosing an environmentally friendly car should be

a cost-effective alternative." Friends of the Earth said task force would have to overcome resistance from the motor industry and even then the initiative was only a partial solution.

Stephen Goodwin

granted to chop down the trees, so that the is being said that they're dead anyway, which

The arrival of the ecological protesters has not been greeted with unmitigated enthusiasm by Kingston's affluent residents, some of whom regard them as an eyesore. One, who identified himself only as Ian, said the council was "trying to privatise public

Jack Taylor, a council spokesman, said

"The poplars got relegated," he said. "It that the borough was looking into the legal situation regarding the protesters, but that it would be up to the developers to evict them if they took to the trees. "We don't want anyone to get injured," he said.

Mr Taylor said the developers had pledged to spend £25,000 on replanting trees and landscaping the gardens. The issue is to be discussed again at a full council meeting on 17 December.



## Virgin *MegaSavers*.

For world beating offers call us by 12 December on 01293 747 245. Or contact your local travel agent. virgin atlantic

Interest free instalments on

FREE CD WHEN YOU CALL FOR A QUOTE 0800 333 800 ines open 8am-10pm Mon-Fri, 9am-5pm Sz

#### Leaving money to someone with a learning disability

How can you leave money in your Will to someone with a learning disability (what used to be known as mental handicap) who may not be able to manage money or property on their own? And how do you do so without reducing their entitlement to State help? The answers are in an informative FREE booklet from Mencap (The Royal Society for Mentally Handicapped Children and Adults). For your copy post the coupon today, or phone FREE, quoting ref: 151

#### 0500 243444

Please send me a FREE copy of the Mencap booklet Leaving Money By Will To People With Learning Disabilities'.

A private individual I am: (please tick one) Other professional SEND TO: Marion Young, Mencap, FREEPOST, 123 Golden Lane, London EC1B 1AA.



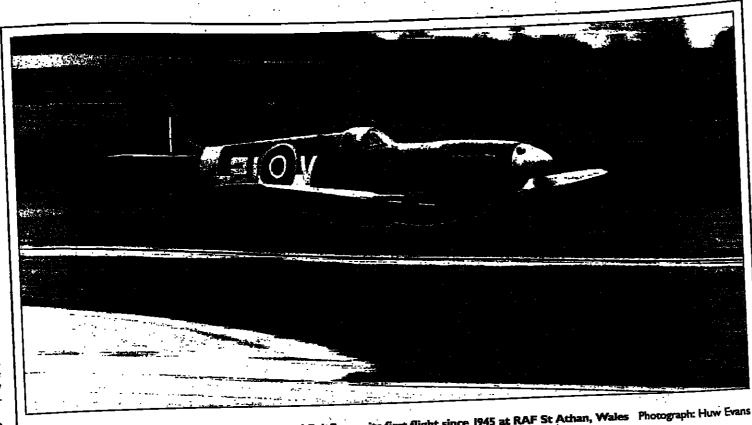
## Inquest call for smoke alarm law

A coroner yesterday said people who did not fit smoke alarms in their homes should face prosecution after he recorded accidental death verdicts on four children aged three to six who died in a blazing house.

Dr Richard Whittington, who heard that the most likely cause of the fire was a discarded cigarette end in the lounge, told the Birmingham inquest: "When you think hundreds of pounds are spent by smokers, the little bit of money to be spent on a smoke alarm is of such little consequence that nobody can afford not to have them fitted."

Later, he told a Fire Service news conference that he would welcome a situation in which those who did not install smoke alarms were prosecuted in the same way as drink-drivers who killed innocent people on the roads.

He said: "The time has come when the failure to fit a smoke alarm should be considered as gross negligence."



Wings: Squadron Leader Paul Day takes a restored Spitfire on its first flight since 1945 at RAF St Athan, Wales Photograph: Huw Evans

## Dover braces itself for NF march on asylum hostel

The National Front will today be allowed to march in Dover to stir up emotions over the recent arrival of Romany asylum seekers. lan Burrell hears anti-nazi groups blame the Government's hard line on immigration for a new climate of hatred.

The sight of the National Front parading through ethnically mixed areas behind a cluster of Union flags was thought to have been consigned to the annals of modern British history as an unsavoury footnote on

Seventies politics. Left in disarray by the splintering of the far-right over the past 20 years, the party has dwindled to a handful of supporters. Yet to the horror of anti-nazi protesters, Kent Police have given the go-ahead for the NF to hold a march today between the Hoverport and East Docks at Dover, key points of

entry into the United Kingdom. The march is intended to end close to a hostel that has become home to some of the 1,000 or so Romany refugees from eastern Europe who arrived in Britain last month to a chorus of complaints about benefit scrounging. The asylum seekers have been dubbed "the Giro Czechs" by the British press. and the opportunity has been seized by the far-right who have descended on Dover circulating leaflets saying: "Dover In Cri-

sis. Invasion Alert". The first attempt at a pubthan four years has triggered the Public Order Act.

plans for a major counter demonstration. Protesters have pledged to form a human protective wall around the asylum hostel and coach loads of protesters will arrive this morning from London, Birmingham, France and other parts of Kent.

Julie Waterson of the Anti-Nazi League said that the Government was partly culpable for creating the conditions on which bigotry has fed. "It is horrendous that a Labour government who are verbally committed to anti-racism and saying they want to stop racist violence are allowing a demonstration and march around Dover where people who are fleeing persecution are being held," she said.

The controversy surrounding the Romany asylum seekers increased this week as a further coach load arrived in London.

The National Coalition of Anti-Deportation Campaigns, which is co-ordinating the Dover protest, blamed the march on Michael O'Brien, the immigration minister, who recently announced a reduction in the time

allowed for asylum appeals. Kent police said only the Home Secretary had the power to ban the march. A force spokesman said that the NF marchers will be limited to 50 and have been warned not to carry placards which might be "racist inflammatory abusive or insulting". A similar restriction on numbers has been put on the counter demonstration.

The Home Office said that Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, could only stop the march if a senior police officer applied to the District Council for a ban lic march by the NF in more on public processions under

## KITCHEN APPLIANCE SALE

SAVES 2150 ON LAUNDRY ON LAUNDRY
UP TO 79 IN STURE WASHING MACHINES

4 indesi (1/3/4, 97) (98) 347E [8] 2**239**.99 **Gindesii** (1612) 47, 1200 466 116 mesh bad 115 programme 100000000 are 1000000 programme 100000000 sweet (20) (279.59 programme 1000 (2000)

Water Hat 1 100 spn TE THE SAME [7] :289.59 1400VEN A175 1200 SAN 14399 1444 (1439) SMEED 1319.99

TRICITY SERVICE CANTON SWE(10 839 M BOSCH WEBSTON

20 SWE120 :379.se ala# \\2.003, 1100 spm 

WASHER DRYERS SWEET 60 1389.59

TUMBLE DRYERS Crusader 37212 Compact 6 Eb dry kad

2 draig temperatures 2 draig temperatures 2 dr (14999 2 dr (19999) SMEE():99.99 BOSCH WIAZOO Ferense tumble action (100 : 199.99

iab drylond Requires no ventury normally \$299.99 frade-in \$259.99 SAVE (150 £249.99

SAVERE130 ON DISHWASHERS UP TO 20 IN STORE B place sellings/4 programmes SWE 130 : 269.09

Z SS DW305

1439.99 SAME CO 63449.99 ONCOOKING ON COOKING

UP TO 120 IN STORE BUILT-IN COOKING ...

Create 48183 Brown Becting Double Over, Easy clean fires (NICHES) 50 5749.99 . SME! 50 :599.99 100 PALAGE II YEE FREE STANGING COOKERS

GSI 501 White Cas Source width SME Was E179 99 presentary 110 : 169 an MOTRE A HL 150 White Cas 500mm etch A ligh level gril WES C 93 99 SAVE ( 10) : 199,00

Credia 49107 Piropode Fan Green Blocht: 500mm width Suppode griffan oven was 129999 . . . SARE (AN) 1299.89 g.99 y 1350.00 SAFE (231) **£669.90** 

f you buy any product from us, then within H days find the seem offer on sole founds at a least pain, well willingly related the

With a Cornel Tune count you can sprea the control cary purchase (subject to complement. With no deposit and an interest free period, it recely is the creat CHESTON PLES TOTA OF THAT DIFFERENCE. Ack a store for the charter

1800 years variable power

Electrolux 1720 Unght

On-board prots SAFE 100 : 159.90

begiese system ..... £199.95

PHILIPS HOME MAKE SHAM NOT

Dual Cyclone Technology Sign

BOSCH KASINGS

YOU CAN'T BUY BETTER The Comet Price Index is your authoritative guide to the lowest prices around. We can say that with confidence because our prices are checked every single day to make sure they match or beat everyone else's. Indeed we're so confident our prices can't be besten that we offer the Comet Price Promise. The Comet Price Index - look out for it in your paper every Saturday and updated daily on Teletext Channel 4 p425. You can't buy better - and that's a fact. SYSTEM WHEN YOU SPEND OVER £199 ON ANYTHING Simply subscribe to any Sky package for 12 in and pay a one-off connection for of \$12 offer is not available to presing and available subscribers or members of their households. KENWOOD DF50 Deep Fall Fryer 2.5 lieu ol capacity SAVE 50% ON MICROWAVES WES 1284-29 In-store 179-29 ...... SAME (TV £ 74-29) UP TO 40 IN STORE HEATING PHILIPS HOSSes Flat For Healer 2.46W teet out of CLET 9567/155 OT Flood Packador Variable hard control PRODUCE STOP Touch Current
750 Walls ECOLD cut Capacity WILLER
WAS 1779-99 SWE 50% 179.99
In-Stop 1989-99. OWER 50% 179.99 800 wath EC £119.99 COURT PLAN Versillo Frush Cortol with Gal 800 water ECOLS cut a specify WOOSEN was 1299.99 VENTURER CD671 In-stone £169.99... SAVE £140 £159.99 VENTURER CD2222 3 Dec Marches CD Min PEOLINE CIRE Touch Cores (\*) Touch Contact Continuation 750 webs 16071.0 cush capacity VOICEEN H-Store £179.99. SAME [ 30 £ 169.99 Panasonic NC897C Continuedon 900 vezits EC 1,1 cush capacily vezi (1869.99 . . . . SWE (20) £**349**.99 anua NS/522 JVC 0001T SMALL DOMESTIC UP TO 250 IN STORE Hermatiko ourob tara In-strae (2299 .... SREE 2 £ 20.99 SWAN AZINIY Nellow Yellow (1888) 15 like (2004)

HI-FI SYSTEMS UP TO 90 IN STORE CD Micro 32 track programmable CD was CNASP......SAFETZ) : 79.49 Two cassale, was CL39.99.00 (109.99 hostone C119.98 ... SAVELZO (109.99 LVC (0x.1100 CD Micro Fel logo casselin ess (1894) ..... SARE (2) (179.89 ...sae (2) :**229**.99 ATUSA NSKSTO 20s. Maliciay CO Mari 125 water, RMS provinces on 1259.99 provinces, 1279.99 1390.90, 1340.93 SAFE (127) (2779.99 1.5 life capacity
1.5 life capacity
Unque driptin shaped spots
SAVE 12 22 69 SHARP CDC470E Doby Pro-Logic 3 Cisc Mulicipie (CD Min

TOSHIBA 1450TB Geodesias TVC144P anua 7890 S Dec Matteriar CD Mes 5 Dec Matteriar CD Mes 70 marts told TAS power cutput 1000000 was 2300000 in-store C340000 ... SAFE (7) \$329.00 in-store C340000 ... SAFE (7) \$329.00 Anti-scale system Staniess sizel soleptale: vess (34.99 previously \$49.89 ... SAME (24) •29.59

For local store details phone free on 0500 425 425. Visit our web site at: www.com

204515

..swei100 :499.se SONY 27 NEAU SEED TV ... sweet 1779 9 RE 12 ESE PROXECT .... SWEET (1069 SONY 3" Home CORNE TV PACKAGE ..... SAME (50) 21119 SAVE # £30 ON PORTABLE HI-FI SAVE : £70 ON VIDEOS UP TO 80 IN STORE VENTURER DAZON Personal CD UP TO 45 IN STORE CD elstern Goodmans DS001 1000EH Long Pay was \$189.99 (1229.99 br-sone \$139.99 ... SAFETO \$1229.99 h-size 124.99

Vertrustes DATOK
Percrist OT stock system
Rechange dreat
was 124.99
In-ston 164.99
In-ston 164.9 SHARP VOLTI VISQUE! 46 [199 9 100 17 [29 9] 10 17 17 199 9 10 17 17 199 9 10 17 17 199 9 CHARLES SHEET (159.99
LIVE HERS
WEST SOINY CF0151
OI Serio Ratio Cascatie
HAMN Interferrite critici
Beac Local, est. E109.9
popilosiy 1729.99 SRE LIM AMTSLESSE HS/50 NCAL Selec Panasonic REDT Cobs CD Sano Rado Casade Remote control RAAMWALW digital bunes

MCAM Serio 1000000 4 hours, was 1210 99 h-store (239 99 SAME ES) 1269 99 TOSHIBA V727 NICAM Serio
4 heads/Sanitre control Parasonic NA-D(2) NCAL Sero 4 heats/Propertie ea.**66t** 3 MEW .... Delicen Control SAFE DE 2349 pg SAVE#£150 ON TELEVISIONS SONY SVE-730 NICAM SEREO UP TO 80 IN STORE Dalvery Control 80E (30 1349.89 PORTABLES & COMBIS TOSHIBA VET NCAN SER THE C14884 THE C19999 In-store C138-99 ... SAME E. (1) (129.95 340m Velibe screen SAVE 10 169.00 ACCESSORIES
UP TO 450 N STORE COMPANY Widon Heart Cleaning | 14.98 34cm visible states! 100048+ 1 29 - 29 TVs HOTTES Microsecznie Hot Water Boille Tatan er Bue Techty 20" Fashed TV 43cm vesible screen h-size £189.39... SAVE (1) £179.90

SAVE ON HOME ENTERTAINMENT

249.00 (249.00)

previously 15549.59 SAFET | 50 : 499.59

OCH VISIDE SCHEID REE 1500.59 ..... SANE 151) 1649.89

#85.E1009.99 ... SAME (10) £999.99

PHILIPS 2976773

SME 50 2799.00

SMEE 15 :299

UP TO 25 IN STORE

JVC GRAZZIOEK VHS-C

06 lor restrict News 1989-199 .... SAME 1100 £399.99

Water angle late | 150 1399.se | 150 1399.se

Mar digital arrow Digital issues statutare tem 15459 composity (1988.09 Sept. (200) :499.86

4.F. disper res (79.99.... See (100 :699.99

SAVE SESTION
GAMES MACHINES
& SOFTWARE

OWER SO GAMES IN STORE

OWNER THE SECOND CO.

The leasest, stock powerful geness statching on earth one Second Co.

SEGA SATURN PLIS 5 Lap Tide

E Sepa Raby Rome Separate Raby pros C19697 Separation 1

FINAL FANTASY VII For Projection

SORTY PlayStation.
Value Pack Place Top Tile Games
Cash Bandwood & Porecte
Credenge. Separate
Credenge. Separate
Credenge.

DJVC GWEEKVISC

SONY TREAT

MONEY BACK WARRANTY Our 5-Year Warranty Is really special. nides giving you process of mind, if ater 5 years you don't make a claim MOST STORES OPEN SUNDAY AND UNTIL 8PM WEEKDAYS iniul. Askinstore for fall details.

WIDE RANGE IN STORE
FREE SOFTWARE BURGLE
WITH ALL MEATHERS POP MULTIMEDIA POS SIEMENS Xxxt P166 MAX NOXOGE Final 1654 to Perfun AUXDORF intel 165M to Perfect processor with MAR Part inchrology 32M 53 RAMAT AGE tend das done 20 pagethas accelerate with 25th RAMA was 1968.99, practically C1198.99 SAME ESCOL 1889.99 PRINCIPAL NAME POLICIAN NEED A PRINCIPAL NAME POLICIAN NEED A PRINCIPAL POLICIAN NEED A PRINCIPAL NAME POLICIAN NAME PO 190 전략 모르는데 2010년 ( 2010년 전 전체 2010년 2월 2일 교육 SUBJECT PASS MAN.
BIRDDORF INTEL 2384 Perform
processor with MAN. The Perform
processor with MAN. The Secretary C346 S
RAMAY, ICO hard disk diversity graphics
accelerator with 346 RAM, was \$1,499.99 1989 SAE (35) £ 1349.5 PRINTERS EPSON 400 Colour Inter Up to 4 pages per manar/20 x 720 dp part quality/Buil en certina (etc), see £199 68 . SAFE (20) £179.99 HENRICATE DESIGN (SOC)
NEW Colour Intyle with Printo President
Up to 5 purples per minute/800 x 600 do part dialty was \$259.89 ... See [10 c 249.96 SCANNERS

SAVE SESSION PHONES, MOBILES, FAXES & ANSWERING MACHINES Southwestern Bell FF790A Cordins Telephone, Bicharrel automatic Selection 2 and resource seas 199.99 . . . . SAE (5 544.99 Dodge Cordes: Jejsphone 20 channels for ultra-clear calls ICE (1799) PROJECT (1999) . SAFE (A) (1599) AND UP TO A REPORT OF THE ACCOUNTS SF110T Fax with Digital Arcsyrating Machine Answaring Machino
Automobic temphone sealch, etc. 5219 98
postcusty 1248 99.
SAFETO (199.59) MOBILE PHONES 

Experts from leading independent Products displayed with A denote Road safety chief's repeat tragedy

A German engineer killed the partner of one of Britain's leading road safety campaigners while test driving a car on a public road. Klaus Menk, a Vauxhall motor engineer, was yesterday found guilty of causing death by dangerous driving. Menk, who could face a jail sentence, was overtaking when he collided with a car driven by motoring journalist Richard Longworth on the B655 near Hexton, Hertfordshire Mr Hex-

ton suffered massive internal injuries and died a week later. The victim's partner, through a cruel stroke of irony, was Mary Williams, director of the road safety organisation Brake. It was the second time she has been bereaved by road crashes. After yesterday's hearing, she said: "Brake will be actively talking to General Motors (which owns Vauxhall) and asking the company to get involved in our work relating to best training practices. The jury have come to the right verdict. It is no good saying it was just one mistake, when such mis-

takes devastate lives." Menk, 48, was one of a team of German engineers from Opel (another GM subsidiary) brought over by GM to carry out comparative tests between Vauxhall production cars and their competitors. The tests involved the engineers repeatedly driving round a 10 mile circuit of B Roads on the Bedfordshire/Hertfordshire border. The trials were carried out in darkness to keep any new models out of the public eye.

The accident happened when Menk, from Frankfurt, pulled out to overtake a Skoda and crashed head-on into Mr Longworth's Vauxhall Nova. He admitted his driving had been careless but denied it was dangerous. He said he had been unaware of a blind spot when he pulled out to overtake.

He was remanded on bail for a pre-sentence report to be prepared but warned that he could be given a prison sentence. - Amanda Kelly

#### Strike threat at Ford plant

Mercy for child porn smuggler

main research centre of car giant Ford are threatening to strike next week in a dispute over the staffing of new engine testing machinery, it was announced yesterday.

Around 250 engineers at the centre in Dunton, near to society. Magill, of Wellington Basildon in Essex were ending their shift early yesterday, complaining that Ford was allowing ed sentence. salaried staff to operate the new machinery rather than hourlypaid skilled workers.

The action will be stepped up to a one-day strike next Wednesday unless there is an agreement, the Amalgamated Engineering and Electrical Union warned.

Engineering workers at the A self-confessed paedophile convicted of smuggling child porn from Amsterdam escaped being jailed in Belfast yesterday.

Lord Justice McCollum told Ian Magill, 49, that being in jail with other sex abusers might turn him into "a greater danger" Park, Belfast, was fined £3,500 and given a two-year suspend-

He was also put on the Royal Ulster Constabulary's sex offenders register.

Heathrow customs officers caught Magill smuggling two child porn tapes - including one he made himself - and three magazines from Amsterdam in 🧲: August 1995.

مكذا من الململ

n oste

7.20 m 1872 The state of the s banes. 15.20 E.S. 10 mm

1

- = 1.1756

- 4.350 g 2 10 100

- 1 m

. . . . . 62

1.122 •

11 - NE

ty chief

agedy

# the Swedes which car

Ieve

An Audi is Sweden's safest car. So says the Folksam Safety Survey, published every two years by one of Sweden's leading insurance firms. In outscoring both Volvo and Saab, Audi was found to be 55 percent safer than the average car. Almost unbelievable.



Blair aide emerges as key player in Formula One affair Bernie Ecclestone relaxing

The spotlight fell yesterday on Jonathan Powell, Tony Blair's right hand man, as a key figure in the centre of the controversy surrounding Bernie Ecclestone's millionpound gift. The money is due to be returned, but Labour faces a rebuff from the unions if it expects them to make up the shortfall. Kim Sengupta, Fran Abrams and Barrie Clement track the

At the crucial meeting on 16 October, in which Labour's Uturn on tobacco sponsorship was strife sowed, the Prime Minischief of staff, Jonathan Powell. Ecclestone had donated £1m to the Labour Party.

shifting scene.

The Prime Minister and Mr tween the two operations.

lobbyists for the sport, Max Mosley and David Ward. A civil servant was also present, but no minutes were kept of the

informed sources have revealed that Mr Powell was a key figure in persuading the Prime Minister that the tobacco ban should not extend to Formula One. Tessa Jowell, the minister Health, were both opposed.

had been due to become Mr Blair's Principal Private Secretary, is said to be friendly with Mr Ward, who at one time worked as a researcher for John Smith, and arranged the 16 October meeting.
Officials confirmed last night

that Labour officials spoke to Mr Ecclestone's aides about the decided and the seeds of future possibility of a second large donation after the general election. ter was accompanied by his But it was still not clear whether the Prime Minister and his se-Both of them were aware that nior official knew about that Formula One chief Bernie when their meeting took place. A spokesman said there was "a

for exempting Formula One meeting on 16 October was to ing to the point of view of his allow Mr Ecclestone to put his visitors. The arguments were fore that he should be in such from Mr Ecclestone, and two case for exempting Formula reasonably well known - they a meeting."

meeting.

for public health, and Frank Dobson, Secretary of State for Mr Powell, who it is believed

distinction" to be made be-

The spokesman said the



One from a ban on tobacco advertising.

"It was an occasion where the Prime Minister was listen-

had already been put to the Department of Health," he said.

"Jonathan Powell is the Prime Minister's chief of staff. It seems to be reasonable there-

Both Mr Blair and Mr Powell met Mr Ecclestone before the election. In addition, Mr Blair took his children to Silverstone last year, where they were driven around the race track by Damon Hill.

Mr Ecclestone had said he does not want the money back. But Labour sources said last night that the party was determined to return the £1m.

But the party simply does not have the money, with an over-

Bank. The unions said last night they would not be willing to bankroll the shortfall.

Yesterday the Prime Minister was again forced to defend his party's position. Speaking

at his Swiss chalet: The FI chief has told Labour not to return his £1 m donation. Aithough the party is determined to give it back, it may not be able to afford to do so

Photograph: Sutton Motorsport Images portillo ta portil

before an engagement in County Durbam, he said the decision to exempt Formula One was "absolutely right".

"It was us which referred this matter to Sir Patrick Neill, who is the official watchdog. He made his recommendation, we followed it to the letter. And frankly to be chased around by a bunch of Conservatives who have never disclosed any of their donations and never returned a donation in their lives is pretty ridiculous," he said.

Last night the Tory leader, William Hague, called for a full account to be given of what happened at the meeting. "If there are no minutes we need an explanation as to why no note of the meeting was taken. If the Prime Minister will not give a full account of this issue we will be forgiven for believing that he has something to hide.

Dixons

## First for New Technology DOLBY SURROUND

JVE sx2 3-D PHONIC DOLBY PRO-LOGIC SURROUND SOUND TV 21" MODEL: £469.99 25 MODEL: SAVE £130

GRUNDIG ST70755 28" DOLBY PRO-LOGIC I SURROUND SOUND TV I ● 66cm visible screen size. ● Fastext. v ● includes cabinet. ● On/off times. Was £799.99. £649.99. in-store Price £599.99.

MITSUBISHI 21AVIBO 21" DOLBY PRO-LOGIC SURROUND SOUND TV 51cm visible screen size.
 Digital sound processor.

 Base cabinet with centre speaker 6 digital effect modes. 12 MONTHS BY TEREST

25 MODEL:



DAY HOME DELIVERY VEEK ON ALL THESE TVs

38cm visible screen size. Was £849,99, **SAVE £50** 

From £9.99. Ask in-store for details If the Saturitie Terreta and Conditions. Free fully installed Sky Saturite System when you spend £99 or more at a Discris store and subscribe to any Sky Channel Package for a minimum 2 month period from £199 per month. Prices may vary, A £2 connection charge is possible with your first subscription, you will not be charged for standard installation. Extra cabing or brackets will incur a charge if required. Applicants must be aged £0 or over and be UK mainland residents, subject to status. Offer it not available to previous and other similar subscriptors or their households. Subscription does not include pay-por-view events. Offer not open to puts, clubs and other similar establishments. Imperitant – Five system is not available in-store, it will be supplied on installation. Consolitation for residents of the stability equipment and installation. For full details default on payments, within 2 months will entitle Sky to charge the full retail price of the stability equipment and installation. For full details of the offer see our in-store leaflet. Whilst we will endeavour to install the system before Christmas we cannot guarantee to do so. \*RETEREST
Account is interest tree it regald in full before for which the Refs. Set. Set. or Refs.
Sopretty payment according to the Cystem Percel Indicated on the released product.

O NTEREST
Typeses, Except in Cash price (289.09 Deposit £54. Loss) Account £555.89.

**SURROUNDING YOU** WITH SOUND At Dixons, we're mad

about movies and so Dolby **Pro-Logic Surround Sound** literally! The dialogue comes right at you from the centre, the action from the left to the right, the atmosphere from behind you! You're literally at

the heart of the action.





TOSHIBA 2877DB 28" DOLBY PRO-LOGIC SURROUND

 66cm visible screen size. FST super black tube.
 Sub-woofer. Fastext. Rear speakers. Was £849.99. SAME £50

## CHASING THE CASH

In the past it had been an accepted fact of political life that the Conservatives would outspend Labour at general elec-

New Labour has been determined to rectify this handicap, and the fund raising mechanism had been drastically overhauled in recent

By the 1992 election the gap had narrowed to £11.2m by the Conservatives compared to £10.6m by Labour. In 1996 the net income

of the party was £17.1m, and the expenditure £17.7m. Out of that £ 7.7m came from the unions and £6.3m from fund raising, £1.7m from membership subscriptions, and another £1.4m from ancillary published. avenues such as publications. Contributions of more than secrecy surrounding the £5,000, including the £1m given by Formula One boss Bernie Ecclestone,

55 donors. In the run up to the elec-Paul Blagbrough, was officially in charge of fund raising. Others involved were

head of finance David Hughes, and director of corporate relations, Nicky Lewis.

All of them reported to the general secretary Tom Sawyer, Jonathan Powell, Mr Blair's chief of staff, is also believed to have played a part in raising funds from corporate sources. At the moment the par-

ty has an overdraft of £4.5m with the Co-op bank, until the Ecclestone debacle it had hoped to repay a large portion of it by next year. Apart from the traditional sources the party ben-

efited from a blind trust set up for Tony Blair. By its very nature the identities of contrib-Mr Blair's staff justified the

donors by claiming this means the party leader cannot be influenced by companies which give money.

Labour spin doctors sugtion the director of finance, gested at first that Mr Ecclestone's contribution had been to the blind trust.

--Kim Sengupta

## Music copyright is another Catch 22

Even popular, wellconsidered policies are coming under scrutiny as Labour fights to clean up after the Formula One sleaze allegations. Steve Boggan examines one announcement that typifies the problems now faced by the Government: just because party donors will benefit, does it mean new policies are wrong?

There was loud applause in the music industry yesterday with the news that Labour was planning a far-reaching review of copyright law to combat record piracy. Bootleg recording sales cost record companies more than £19m a year, while the threat from pirates in Asia and China and from potential Internet raiders could take the total far higher in the new millennium.

But while the champagne corks were popping, it was hard to turn a blind eye to the influence exercised over Labour policy by two music industry insiders, Alan McGee, owner of Creation Records, and Lord Levy, former owner of Magnet Records and M&G Records. One, Mr McGee, donated

£50,000 to Labour Party coffers shortly before the election and was appointed to the Government's Creative Industries Forum after the Labour victory. The other, Michael Levy, is on the party's four-strong fund-rais-

ing committee and was elevated to the House of Lords when

Tony Blair moved into No 10. In the current climate, it is easy to see how some eyebrows might be raised. Oasis, Creation's biggest stars, must be among the most pirated bands in the world; the new moves must surely benefit Mr McGee. Lord Levy sold M&G last month but has been in the music industry for more than 20 years. He boosted Labour funds, aggressively pro-

moting Tony Blair's blind trust. But what if they did influence the party on copyright law? Could anyone criticise safeguarding artists' intellectual property rights and protecting the £3.4bn in exports they generate?

The music industry was amazed that anyone could see the move, announced by Chris Smith, Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, as anything but positive. Steve Redmond, editor-in-chief of Music Week magazine, said: Successive governments have failed to connect with intellectual property industries ... Chris Smith and Labour seem to be making up for that."



احكدًا من الاحل

£799.99

Taste Cali Wine...to:

## 11/POLITICS

## Portillo takes first steps on the big comeback

To the voters of Enfield Southgate ~ and a large part of the country - he may be yesterday's man. But to the Conservative Party he is media-

e Ecclestone relate

to eccenting fill point in the party of the party current life.

teron: Although the

A is desermined to 8st ich, it may not be the

> friendly "good fun". Fron Abroms looks at Michael Portillo's plans for a come-back.

There will be tea and scones with the blue rinse ladies, there party to offer his services after will be speeches and, no doubt, there will be a certain amount of adulation.

In addition, of course, there fence to raise his head above the will embark on a whirlwind venues in Scotland and York- mothers and gays. shire as well as in the rest of

"He's going to attract members, he's the sort of guy the with his former ministerial colmedia will talk to and he raises money. He's good fun," said a party spokesman

Stephen Twigg in the general election on 1 May with a mas- challenging the returning offisive 17.4 per cent swing against him. However, Conservative Central Office still regards him took the opportunity to show his as one of the party's most popular figures.

The official line is that the tour is a thing to be greatly welcomed - indeed, it has been organised through the speakers' department at the party's Smith Square headquarters.

But in some quite corners, there must surely be an inkling of doubt.

Michael Heseltine famously built up a following after re- me," he said. signing from Margaret Thatcher's government by tour- surrounding the tour last night, ing the country eating bad though Although Central Ofcreme caramel and working fice was happy to confirm it, Mr the party faithful into a frenzy Portillo's office refused to give with his post-prandial bon mots.

So, is Mr Portillo's plan to from The Independent. bring the Conservatives back in from the cold, or simply him-

leading his party, and he has made no secret of the fact that he intends to return to Westminster after a decent interval. A party spokesman admitted

that some would be bound to believe the latter. "I think some people will play it as that. That's just a fact of life. But fundamentally he is

There's a demand for him within the constituencies."

doing it because he is a popu-

lar man within the Conservative

Mr Portillo approached the six months in which he had made only a very few public ap-

pearances. He had barely been seen at will be the chance for the for- all until his reincarnation at the mer Secretary of State for De- party conference in Blackpool, where he made a speech in parapet after months in the po- which he astonished his audilitical wilderness. This week he ence by apologising for the last government's mistakes and asktour of the country, taking in ing them to embrace single

> Then, last week, he made another appearance in Winchester, where he went canvassing league Gerry Malone.

Mr Malone is fighting a byelection after losing his seat by Mr Portillo lost to Labour's two votes to the Liberal Democrats and then successfully cer's verdict in court.

While there, Mr Portillo new-found humility once more. Asked when he planned to return to Parliament, he replied: "If you have been defeated and pop up the next day asking to be re-elected, people will say you couldn't abide by the verdict of the electorate."

Speaking of his tour, he denied embarking on a pre-emptive leadership strike.

"That did not even occur to

There was some mystery details despite repeated calls

Inquiries from other Conservative sources who phoned self? After all, if he were in Par- friends of Mr Portillo have met liament now he might well be with a similar response.



Party animal: Michael Portillo will find adulation among the Tory faithful on his national tour Photograph: Brian Harris

#### **Mandelson ignites** union anger

over a leaked Cabinet memorandum, Peter Mandelson yesterday denied he was trying to undermine the Government's national minimum

wage policy. The minister without portfolio insisted that in contrast to impressions gained by Margaret Beckett, President of the Board of Trade, he was not seeking "wide exemptions" from the national minimum wage. As part of a wage for all workers." damage limitation exercise he declared that he was

However, unions yesterday expressed deep concern about his intervention on the issue. Hector MacKenzie, associate general secretary of public service union Unison, called for

Amid mounting union anger an "end to interference" from ministers who were arguing for exemptions from the proposed statutory minimum wage. He said the Low Pay Commission should be allowed to get on with its work without interference.

Mr MacKenzie pointed out that there was increasing support among the business community for the proposed law. "People are not asking for a fortune, just a decent living

John Edmonds, general secretary of the GMB genersimply arguing for flexibility. al union, said that the kind of exceptions which Mr Mandelson seemed to be supporting would result in an "unfair and unenforceable mess".

— Barrie Gement Labour Editor

## ENJOY.

#### (IT WON'T BE AROUND FOR LONG.)

FIXED RATES FROM

FIXED UNTIL I JANUARY 2000 MINIMUM E20,000 LOAN APPLIES

## THE INDEPENDENT **Taste Californian** Wine...tomorrow

Tomorrow sees the XIIIth Fine Wine Festival hosted by Arthur Rackham, independent fine wine merchant and sponsored by the Wine Institute of California.

Held at the Oatlands Park Hotel in Weybridge, Surrey, the festival affords anyone keen to learn more about more than 200 wines and champagnes the chance to taste their way through an outstanding range of products from around the world - including more than 20 wines from specialist Californian producers.

In order to ensure quality tasting time for all visitors, the festival is split into two sessions, from 12 noon to 3pm and from 5pm to 9pm.

Tickets for the event are normally £10 but Arthur Rackham and the Wine Institute of California are offering 20 tickets for each session free of charge to the first Independent readers to ring

01483 722962 after 10am today.

Independent ticket holders will also be asked to help judge the Outstanding Californian Wine category of the show - with awards to be presented to the winning wineries on Sunday evening. All respondents will also be presented with a £10 voucher to spend at the festival on Sunday.

Happy tasting...



Photogram of own delets per caller - Offer limited to 40 fictors - Phone line open on IS/1197 only - Offer not open to employees of The Independent, Arthur Rackham or Wine Institute of California - The promoter of this offer is Arthur Racidemi/The independe

The state of the s

You'd better get your skates on because, despite the latest interest rate rise, at Alliance & Leicester our rates have come down.

We are currently offering a market leading package of fixed rates, and they'll sell like not cakes.

- 2 year fixed 4.25% 4.4% APB.
- 3 year fixed 5.95% 6.2% APR.

Plus, refunded valuation fee on all applications received before 13th December 1997.

http://www.alliance-leicester.co.uk

5 year fixed 6.25% - 6.5% APR.

To find out more, whizz down to your local Alliance & Leicester branch (the shop on the High Street with the large crowd outside) or call 9809 412 214 for more information.

But don't delay. Remember: The early bird catches the worm (yum, yum).

PART SHOWN IS FOR RESIDENTIAL MORTGAGES. APR QUOTED IS FOR MORTGAGE OR AN INTEREST ONLY BASIS, AUTHOURS QUE INTO THE COMPANY WINDS AND THE FORT AND THE ADDRESS ARE ONLY FOR THE AMOUNT AND TERM OF THE LOAN MUST ALSO AS ARRANGED CONTRIBUTIONS/PRIMICUS SPRIMINUS WILL BE PARABLE TO THE COMPANY WINDS THE FAXED RATE OF 45th MASS ARE THE ROSE BATT THAN ONLY APPLIES UNTIl 1,200 FOR LOAN OF NO MORE THAN 7th LOAN NO THE FORT AND THE TOTAL AMOUNT THAT THE ADDRESS ARE ONLY FOR THE BASIS THAT THE BASIS WARREST THE ROSE BATT THAN ONLY AND THE TOTAL AMOUNT THAT THE COMPANY ONLY AND THE TOTAL AMOUNT THAT THE LOAN AND THE FORT AND THE FORT AND THE WORLD AND THE FORT AND THE LOAN AND THE FORT AND THE FORT AND THE FORT AND THE FORT AND THE LOAN AND THE FORT AND THE LOAN AND THE FORT AND THE FO

YOUR HOME IS AT BISK IF YOU DO NOT KEEP UP REPAYMENTS ON A MORTGAGE OR OTRER LOAN SECURED ON IT.

## Last superpower defied by friends and enemies alike

The US is once more flexing its muscles in the Gulf, sending another aircraft carrier and hinting at military action. But this week has seen the weaknesses of US diplomacy cruelly exposed. As Mary Dejevsky explains, the world's only superpower is having increasing trouble getting others to acknowledge its leadership.

However Mr Clinton decides to proceed with Iraq - and the question boils down to whether, and then when, to use military force - he cannot escape one conclusion. In expelling American weapons inspectors from the country, Iraq has successfully defied the United States, and if Washington uses force, it will split, perhaps irrevocably, the international alliance that has held more or less firm since the end of the Gulf War six years ago.

Throughout the week, Washington has tried to persuade itself, and the rest of the world, that Baghdad is at odds with the "international community" as represented by the United Nations. Technically, this is true: Iraq is in breach of a succession of UN Secarity Council resolutions. In expelling American nationals working for the UN, it has overridden a cardinal UN rule - that no country may pick and choose members of UN teams. "It is," said a Pentagon spokesman, "as though an ex-convict were trying to pick his own parole officer."

So far, however, Washington has been unable to convince any but its most loyal (and dependent) allies that the authority of the UN is worth fighting for. Of course, the United States has the military might to act by itself if it chooses. But the point is that it has tried to forge a broad anti-Iraq alliance in the diplomatic arena - and failed.

Initially, it had difficulty even in getting the latest, largely token, sanction approved by the Security Council: the travel ban on Iraqi officials deemed to have obstructed UN weapons inspections. France, Russia. China and Egypt all wavered. For differ-

ent reasons, these countries do not regard the further isolation of Iraq as being in their - or even the international - interest.

This diplomatic failure would be bad enough for the US, but it is not an isolated case. Relations with Israel are as bad as they have been for years. The peace process is moribund. In protest, many Arab states are boycotting a US-sponsored economic conference in Qatar next week, but they will go to Tehran next month for a conference of Islamic states. The US has no dialogue with Iran, but failed to convince others they should complete its isolation.

The one global superpower is finding that it cannot persuade other people to do what it wants by diplomacy alone, and its difficulties do not stop at the Middle East

Even the Europeans and Canadians are chafing. They have challenged US laws that would penalise foreign businesses for trading with Iraq, Iran and Cuba-regimes that the US wants isolated. The American hero of the Bosnia settlement, Richard Holbrooke, returned from Cyprus this week with nothing to show for his diplomatic efforts there, and little hope either.

The only bright spot was the agreement of North Korea to send a delegation to ture of the Korean peninsula early next year. Switzerland, however, was not the venue the US had planned for the talks. The preliminary (failed) talks took place at the UN. Clearly, North Korea wanted, and got, a venue that they regarded as more neutral.

There is a sense in which Washington's diplomatic problems abroad begin at home, with the complexion of Congress and the mood of voters. This week, Mr Clinton suffered two signal political failures, both of which clip Washington's diplomatic wings. Forsaken by a majority of Congressmen from his own Democratic Party, he had to abandon his attempt to enhance his authority to negotiate international trade agreements - a defeat that called into question US commitment to free trade. On Thursday, Congress rejected a carefully wrought deal under which the US would repay its \$1bn debt to the United Nations. These defeats sent the message that,



Switzerland for four-party talks on the fu- A Pro-Iraqi demonstrator shouts outside Regent's Park Mosque in central London yesterday

Photograph: Paul Hackett: Reuters

not interested in "abroad", except on its own; strictly limited terms.

This is not primarily a failure of foreign policy. Certainly, the absence of a grand scheme and clear priorities is a handicap, but it may be the inevitable consequence of the collapse of the Soviet threat. Certainly, perceived contradictions between the US policy of "constructive engagement" (talking and trade) applied to China, and its demonising of Iraq, Iran and Cuba, leave scepticism and confusion in their wake,

But the main failure is one of diplomacy: Washington is failing to convince others that they and the US have interests and values in common. It seems to be losing the art of winning friends and influencing people, even the art of keeping the friends it has.

At the summit of industrialised nations

whatever Mr Clinton might say, the US is in Denver earlier this year, US officials alienated even ardent Ameriphiles by flaunting US economic success, prompting others to retort with the figures that America was not counting - for poverty, crime, infant mortality and exclusion from healthcare. On his Latin America tour last month, Mr Clinton met protests against what was seen as US economic bullying. In Europe, people are talking again about the return of the "big, ugly American".

> was moved to warn an academic audience that the US had to show more "sensitivity" in its diplomacy, or risk isolation. America's handling of the latest fracas with Iraq, inside and outside the United Nations, could prove to be a textbook case - and it

## The evidence compiled by the UN inspectors

by the UN special commission (UNSCOM) -collated from reports by UNSCOM and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Last mouth, the speaker of the US - which has been working for the past six years House of Representatives, Newt Gingrich, to find and neutralise Iraq's weapons of mass

Significant progress has been achieved in the missile area. The commission is now in a position to be able to account for practically all, except two, imported combat missiles that were once the core of Iraq's proscribed missile force. The commission has also accounted for all declared operational missile launchers, both imported and indigenously produced. To achieve the ultimate objective of full disposal of Iraq's operational missile assets, the next important step is to account decisions of the Security Council. for proscribed missile warheads.

Once this is accomplished, the com- Nuclear mission's ability to report to the Security Council with confidence that Iraq does not possess a proscribed missile force would greatly increase.

Chemical Weapons

area, of which the recently completed de-

The following is a summary of progress made equipment and materials is an example. However, the ability of the commission to report positively on disarmament of this category of weapons of mass destruction will require the provision by Iraq of much more and accurate material and related access by the commission relevant to the warheads and the highly toxic VX nerve agent.

Biological Weapons

This is an area unredeeemed by progress or any approximation of the known facts of Iraq's programme. The Executive Chairman (eds: Richard Butler) and UNSCOM experts have made clear repeatedly to their Iraqi counterparts their deep concern about this area, both intrinsically and in terms of its impact upon the overall estimation of Iraq's willingness to abide by the

The IAEA's activities regarding the inves tigation of Iraq's clandestine nuclear programme have reached a point of diminishing returns and the IAEA is focusing most of its resources on the implementation and technical strengthening of its plan for the Important progress has been made in this monitoring and verification of Iraq's compliance with its obligations under the relstruction of chemical weapons-related evant Security Council resolutions.

#### FLASHPOINTS FOR WASHINGTON

The US was unable to persuade more than a bare majority French and Russian companies have concluded agreements spections. Opinions differ on the gravity of Iraq's nonco-operation with the UN: the US and Britain want Iraq to keep to the letter of UN resolutions, allowing all suspect facilities to be subject to spot inspections, keeping nofly zones completely clear. A more relaxed view, taken by many Arab states, is that the Iraqi people are being made threatens any country, and it is time be more flexible.

of the UN Security Council to impose more sanctions with Iran to develop offshore oil and gas, despite US threats between continuing support for its ally, Israel, and its deafter Iraq increased its obstruction of UN weapons in- under the Helms-Burton legislation to penalise foreign com- sire to advance the cause of peace. It has alienated both calculate whether the principle of isolating these regimes means more than the pursuit of good relations with Europe and Russia. Europe has reinstated its policy of "constructive engagement" with Iran, sending its ambassadors back after a six-month break. The US could find itself excluded to suffer for the misdeeds of their leaders, that Iraq no long from diplomatic and economic benefits if the Iranian government starts pursuing more outward-looking policies.

#### MIDDLE EAST The peace process is moribund, and the US finds itself torn

ered on undertakings to act as honest broker (and to reward them for support during the Gulf War), and Israel, which is conspicuously rejecting US advice, for instance on the building of more Jewish sectlements in east Jerusalem. When the Israeli Prime Minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, comes to Washington next week, he will not have an appointment to see President Bill Climon.



irgin MegaSavers.

For world beating offers call us by 12 December on 01293 747 245. Or contact your local travel agent.

virgin atlantic

# PRODUCT

K FOR KIDS **'STRETCH ACROSS BEARS'** 

These are a row of four small cloth bears designed to stretch across a pram. Each bear is labelled with the word either 'Squeak, Rattle, Crinkle or Jingle Bell'.

Tesco has identified a problem in the manufacture of the above product.

It has been found that a small number of bears may split at the seam and the stuffing may become exposed - this could constitute a choking hazard.

As a precaution this product has been withdrawn from sale.

Customers who have purchased the K for Kids 'Stretch Across Bears' since August 1, 1997 are requested to return them to any Tesco where a full refund will be given.

The manufacturers have now reviewed their procedures and undertaken a full investigation. No other K for Kids products are affected by this withdrawal.

Tesco apologises for the inconvenience this may cause and assures customers of our care and commitment to the highest standards of safety and quality at all times.

Free customer belpline 0800 505555



## 13/IRAC

## Can America match its mouth with its muscle?

The US public has an exaggerated expectation of what can be achieved against Saddam Hussein, and it expects any action to be taken without significant American casualties. But American air power was nothing like as accurate or effective in the Gulf War as was claimed by the Pentagon. Patrick Cockburn explains why the White House is so reluctant to launch air strikes on Iraq, which will not necessarily hurt the Iraqi leader or his regime.

In the Gulf War in 1991, highprecision weapons - smart bombs and cruise missiles curity apparatus which have hitting their targets with secret and frequently changed telecommunication buildings in Baghdad erupt in flames on the first night of the war as they for the US. The Gulf War got were hit by smart bombs. General Norman Schwarzkopf, the allied commander, proudly showed film of an American This did not happen purely beplane hitting an Iraqi mobile cause of high precision Scud missile launcher.

npiled

reds

tors

least it was highly exaggerated. es on day three [of the war] in A post-war study by the CIA of the Baghdad area" the aircraft 90 scud missile launchers, were no longer used in large claimed destroyed by the US air numbers in the metropolitan force in Iraq's western desert, area of the capital. showed that the real figure was road to Jordan.

the war, but a study by US spe- moving tanks cannot be hit cialists of a sample of these showed that just 10 per cent had been destroyed from the air. The rest were mostly abandoned by their crews.

This means that "punishing Saddam", the glib recommendation of US Congressional leaders is far more difficult than it looks. "In the war we had real difficulty in hitting priority targets like Saddam himself, tanks, artillery, the Republican guard divisions and the troops withdrawing from Kuwait to Basra," says one US expert.

This view is supported by a highly critical report by the General Accounting Office US Congress. Entitled "Operation Desert Storm; evaluation of the Air Campaign", it was published this summer in the teeth of objections from the

Pentagon. It systematically deflates the claims, made by manufacturers and the US Department of Defence alike, for the effectiveness of most weapon systems.

An advertisement for General Dynamics advertising its F16 fighter-bomber reads: "No matter what the mission, air-toair, air-to-ground. No matter what the weather, day or night, the F16 is the premier dog

sourly, the ability of the F16's ordering his planes to attack.

air-to-ground Maverick missile costing \$100,000 (£61,000) each, to hit anything was impaired or sometimes made impossible by clouds, haze, humidity, smoke and dust. It is even more dismissive of the much-vaunted Stealth bomber.

The picture that emerges of the air war is that the US and its allies were able to hit multi-storey buildings and other large, immobile targets with accuracy. Thus US planes hit telecommunications towers, the oil refinery and power station at Doura on the capital's southern outskirts as well as bridges spanning the Tigris. But it could not destroy smaller, more mobile targets such as tanks and artillery pieces.

If the air war is restarted by President Clinton the same pattern is likely to be repeated. The civilian infrastructure is easy to hit, but not the military and seunerring accuracy - appeared to headquarters. There could be rule the battlefield. Television less tolerance of Iraqi civilian caviewers around the world saw sualties in the West than there was in 1991.

There is a further problem Americans used to the idea that an air campaign could be waged with almost no casualties. weapons. The GAO report It never happened; or at notes that "after two F-16 loss-

This inability, because of nil. The pilots had been hitting losing planes and pilots, to opdecoys and petrol trucks on the erate at low altitudes put a severe cramp on what the US can Iraq lost some 2,500 tanks in do against Iraq. For instance, without risking US casualties.

The misrepresentation of what happens in the skies above Iraq is motivated by more than military braggadocio. At the time of Desert Storm, the US had 229 aircraft capable of delivering laser guided munitions. That figure has now risen to 500 planes. But such guided weapons are vastly more expensive than ordinary bombs and missiles. The US services have now bought, or are acquiring, guided munitions worth no less than \$58bn (£35bn).

This immense investment is in the face of the conclusion of the GAO that "the air campaign (GAO) a monitoring arm of the data did not validate the purported efficiency or effectiveness of guided munitions."

At the same time, however. Iraq is largely defenceless unless US and allied aircraft attack at low altitude. Its people are weary after seven years of economic siege. They remember the incompetence of their own government in 1991.

It failed to stockpile any petrol, kerosene or diesel so when the oil refineries were hit, all transport ground to a halt because of a fuel shortage.

No wonder Iraqis with cars have been queuing this week to fill up at petrol stations. But no wonder also that President Clin-In fact, the GAO notes ton is so cautious about



Not so stealthy: A report has claimed that much of the expensive weaponry used in the Gulf War was ineffective

ALISCH THREED

h logs Separa Corre 1988 Separated

NOW OPEN - BELFAST PASSELIVERPOOL, OLD KENT RD &

CONTROL Landed Iron 2 Miles SCHOOL Anniel Landed Alex

#### LYING BY STEALTH

A comparison of statements made by the manufacturer of the FII7 "Stealth" fighter-bomber with GAO findings.

CLAIM: Achieved "80 per cent direct hits". REALITY: The hit rate was between 50 and 80 per cent. The probability of bomb release was only 75 per cent. The probability of a hiz during a scheduled F-I/7 mission was between 41 and 60 per cent.

CLAIM: The "only zircraft to attack heavily defended downtown Baghdad".
REALITY: Other types of aircraft frequently ar tacked targets in the equally heavily defended

CLAIM: "During the first night, 30 F- 17's struck 37 high-value targets, inflicting damage that collapsed Saddam's air defence system and all but elimreported hit, of these, the F-II7s were tasked were re-ported hit, of these, the F-II7s were tasked were reof their strategic air defence targets. Bomb damage assessments on II of the F-II7 air defence targets confirmed only two complete kills. Numerous aircraft, other than the F-17, were involved in suppressing the Iraqi air defence system, which did not show a marked falloff in aircraft kills until day five.

CLAIM: On day one of the war, only 36 Stealth Fighters (less than 2.5 per cent of the coali tactical assets) where in the Gulf theatre, yet they attacked 31 per cent of the 17 January targets.

REALITY: The 2.5 per cent claim is based on a comparison of the F-II7's to all deployed aircraft, including those incapable of dropping bombs. The F-II/s represented 32 per cent of US aircraft capable of delivering bombs with warheads designed to penetrate hardened targets.

CLAIM: F-17 reinstated the element of surprise REALITY: Other, nonstealthy, aircraft also achieved surprise. Stealth characteristics did not ensure surprise for all F-II7 strikes, modifications

Source: General Accounting Office

E59-97

VIEW THE NEW

TOYS "R" US INTERNET

CATALOGUE ON:

ittp://www.toysrus.co.uk



MICHA Tababala bartid

1000 Okalian Hadaliy

GLASGOW HELIN ST.

99998

YEAR BEEF

900**000 hi (ab**, balab

Advertisement

## Get the facts about HRT

today has the option of besides! taking HRT - the biggest Understanding HRT and the (and most controversial) Menopause gives women the issue in women's health since opportunity to take control the advent of the Pill. at a challenging time in Understanding HRT and the their lives and make a Menopause arms you with the truly informed, responsible essential facts to decide if it's

This invaluable guide from copy today? Which? will help you weigh Understanding HRT and up for yourself the pros and the Menopause costs just cons of hormone replacement £9.99 (P&P FREE). To order, therapy. Honest, reliable, send your name and address. informative and highly the book title and your readable, it looks at many vital payment (cheque made issues, including: • symptoms payable to Which? Ltd or and signs of the menopause credit card number, with o managing the menopause expiry date) to: Which?, with or without HRT PO Box 89, Dept SP210, • breast cancer and the links Hertford, SG14 ITB. Orders between cancer and hormone are normally despatched treatment • osteoporosis • the within 14 days of receipt. importance of diet, exercise Full refund if not and stress management • the satisfied.

Any woman approaching or need for regular screening going through the menopause and health checks • and more

decision about their health. Why don't you invest in a

免佣 人的职 355

MICE IN THE SECOND

## **Medics** call for all babies to have new deafness test

All newborn babies should be screened immediately to check for deafness, a report commissioned by the Government says. Jeremy Laurance, Health Editor, explains why urgent action is needed to prevent delays in diagnosis for hundreds of children affected.

A discovery 20 years ago has made it possible to check the hearing of newborn babies with a simple test. The finding that healthy ears produce sound led to the development of a probe which, when inserted into the baby's ear, sends out clicks and then listens for the tiny echoes that a healthy ear should send

A study by the Medical Research Council's Institute of Hearing Research in Nottingham and the Department of Audiology at the University of their families," he said. Manchester has found that only a quarter of the 840 children born each year with permanent hearing problems are identified by the standard hearing check carried out by health visitors at involves one health visitor distracting the child while anothwhether the baby notices.

The study, commissioned found a further quarter were deof 18 months, but about 200 still remained unidentified at three they do not benefit from hear- ductive disorders.

ing aids at a crucial time in their development.

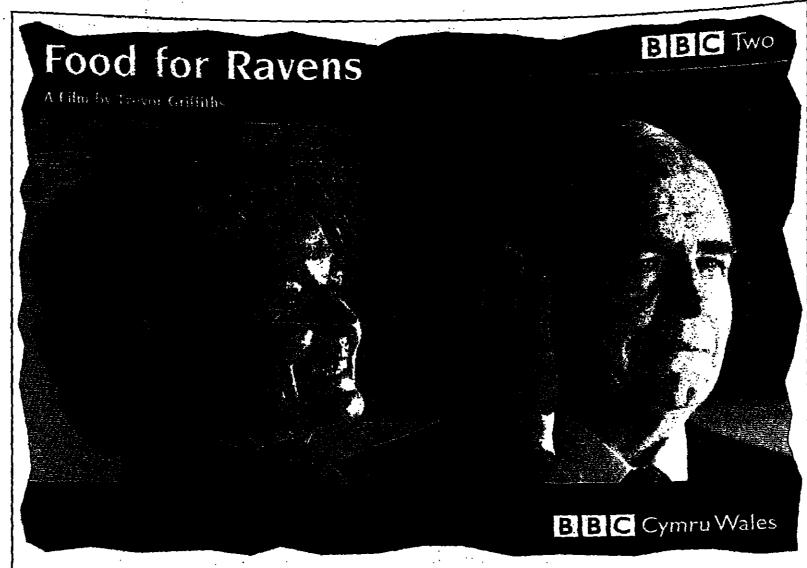
The new test is cheaper and more accurate than the distraction test, as well as identifying those affected at a younger age. The MRC study recommends a national screening programme with a back-up distraction test at seven months for those who miss the earlier

In the United States, 200 hospitals provide universal hearing screening, half using the British test. Only a few centres in the UK routinely screen all babies for hearing, one being Whitops Cross hospital in Essex.

Professor Adrian Davis, who led the study, said that spotting affected children early could prevent problems with education and long-term education and improve quality of life.

"Our research has led us to believe that [the probe test] is the most equitable and responsive, provides the best value for money and potentially gives the greatest benefits for hearing impaired children and

The study will now be considered by the health department's National Screening Committee chaired by Sir Kenneth Calman, the Government's chief medical officer. 7 to 8 months of age. This test Test-tube babies born after injecting a single sperm into the egg, a technique for overcomer makes quiet sounds to see ing male infertility which is growing rapidly in popularity, are twice as likely to have a maby the health department, jor birth defect. The Australian study of 420 infants, published tected in other ways by the age in the British Medical Journal, found that 31 had major defects, including deft palate, hernia and a half years. This means and heart, digestive or repro-



Something to crow about: The drama Food For Rovens, about the life of Nye Bevan (below), has led to a spat between its creators and the BBC

## Political drama left to make a late-night entrance

Tomorrow BBC2 screens a film marking the centenary of the birth of Labour legend Nye Bevan. But you wouldn't know it. Rob Brown, Media Editor, finds its writer-director and star angry at the lack of publicity.

The decision not to make any effort to drum up an audience for Food for Ravens - a film which cost film of

who plays Bevan in the film, Almost spitting with rage on a trip back to Britain from Hollywood, he said that the film was a victim of both metropolitian myopia and the dumbing down of television drama in Britain: bounced into showing this "BBC network bosses didn't want to run this wonderful piece of work outside Wales. Now that they've been embar-

The playwright Trevor Griffiths believes his film was only granted a nationwide screening after an article in The Independent last month. That highlicence money to make - has lighted the fact that the drama confirmed that there would be BBC2 will show it elsewhere at enraged the actor Brian Cox. was in danger of being shown no trailers for this film, but he 11.15pm tomorrow.

trying to bury it."

only in Bevan's homeland of claimed that this was common Wales because executives doubted whether the founder of the National Health Service still had national appeal.

"Since they've been thing, pique is now mas-Griffiths yesterday. 'They're putting it out in a very late slot despicable, disgraceful and doesn't serve the BBC or the audiences that pay for it."

-- A spokesman for the BBC

practice. "If a programme is not trailed that doesn't mean the BBC isn't proud of it."

However, Brian Cox is so angered he has penned a polemic about what he sees as the demise of public service querading as policy," said Mr broadcasting. It will appear in the Independent on Sunday tomorrow. "I know there is a risk rassed into showing it, they're and not drawing anyone's that I will never work in British attention to it. I regard that as television again for speaking out on this," he said. "But I'm deeply unprofessional. It so angry that I'm quite prepared to run that risk."

• Food for Ravens is shown on BBC1 in Wales tonight at 9pm.



## IRA told Irish unity is far off

finale fc

The Irish republican leadership was challenged last night to tell the IRA that a united Ireland is out in the immediate future. Jonathan Stephenson, chairman of the SDLP, also warned of new divisions inside the Provisionals after he claimed his party had helped give Sinn Fein an easy ride out of the political darkness.

But with Gerry Adams and Martin McGuinness involved in the Stormont peace talks to find some sort of settlement, the painful process of engaging with reality had started, he said. "Now they have to tell their foot soldiers that a united, unitary Ireland is not an immediately attainable option," Mr Stephenson told the SDLP annual conference in Belfast.

No one denies their right to argue for it and argue for it they are doing. But when reality sinks in, the splits will show. That always happens and its bappening already."

Mr Stephenson added: "The question for Sinn Fein is: Will the majority which emerges be prepared to acquiesce to arrangements which they do not regard as sufficient, but can portray as dynamic and allowing the continued political struggle towards their objective?'."

Even though at least two senior men have withdrawn from the IRA leadership because of their opposition to the Adams/ McGuinness peace strategy, the Provisionals have categorically denied any chaos in the organisation. At the same time security chiefs on both sides of the border, while confirming unease among the rank-and-file in some areas, said the ceasefire was under no immediate threat.

But they also accepted its future could depend on the level of progress at the negotiating table inside Castle Buildings. The talks enter a crucial phase on

# STAPLES SAVE SPACE & MONEY 3 COLOUR MACHINES IN ONE INCLUDES BLACK & COLOUR CARTRIDGES EWLETT PACKARD PACKARD OFFICEJET PRO MODEL NO. 1150C SKU 258483 1. COLOGR PRINTER 600 x 300dpi colour, 600 x 600dpi mono 2. COLOGR COPIER 7ppm mono, up to 3ppm colour

3. COLOUR SCANNER 94 bit, 300dpl optical (1900dpl Interpolated)

FOR YOUR NEAREST STAPLES STORE CALL

#### A vital £2.75hn Tube extension, already six ing central London with Docklands, is due London, through Docklands to Stratford in months late, is likely to open in two sepaeast London. Passengers wanting to use the to open in September 1998. But LU says a entire route will have to change at Charing hi-tech signalling system, due to be installed rate sections because of signalling diffiin June, could take time to "bed down". Cross or Waterloo. Eventually, the line will culties, it was revealed yesterday. And it If there are difficulties, LU plans to run could be several months before passengers bypass Charing Cross, using Westminster to link up to the old route at Green Park. using the Jubilee Line extension will be able the line in two sections: one on the existing line from Stammore in Middlesex to Char-An LU spokesman admitted "it could to travel the entire route without changing trains, London Underground warned. be some months before through journeys ing Cross in central London, and the other on the new section from Waterloo in south The 10-mile, 10-station extension, link-

lubilee Tube extension might not link up with existing line

## **Drugs arrest**

IN BRIEF

of girl, 14 A 14-year-old girl has been arrested on suspicion of supplying heroin, police said yesterday. She was among four people ques-tioned in Warwickshire following a drugs investigation in the Learnington area. Three women have been charged with drugs offences. Police were considering

#### A-level pupil's suicide

whether to bring charges against

the girl.

An A-level student leapt 100ft to his death only days before his results were due, unaware that he had the grades he wanted to study chemistry at Leicester University. Anthony Dwyer, 18, was filmed by security cameras as he fell from Broadmarsh multi-storey car park in Nottingham in August, an inquest was told. Nottinghamshire coroner recorded a verdict of suicide on Mr Dwyer of West Bridgford, Nottingham.

#### **Bomb shell** clears school

OPEN TO

TRADE & PUBLIC

7 DAYS A WEEK

MONDAY-FRIDAY 8-8

SATURDAY 9-6

and SUNDAY

A primary school pupil sparked a bomb scare yesterday when he walked into his headteacher's office with part of a Second World War shell. Mill Hill Primary School, in Burslem, Stokeon Trent, Staffordshire, was evacuated for nearly three hours while bomb disposal experts checked out the object.



Unlimited number of withdrawals. For high interest and high standards of service, it has to be Legal & General's new postal instant access account. It's

called the Direct Access Account and you can start saving with just \$2,500. And whatever you save you'll earn an attractive rate - which could be as much as 7.2% gross interest per annum. A monthly interest option is also available on balances of \$5,000 and over - up to 6,95% gross p.a.

And what's more, you can gain instant access to your money, by post or by phone. So if you want to earn an attractive rate of interest with instant access, call us free on the number below. Our triendly staff will be happy to help you.

Annual Gross SEE HOW WE COMPARI \$2,500 \$5,000 \$10,000 Legaj & General Direct Access &c 7.15%' 7.15%' 7.20%' ltenham & Gkruce Nationwide Invest Direct

Picase quote ref: B042 DJ01

instant access

trust us to deliver

son is limited to taxes alone on that daile, and is on the basis that withdrawal limits and other o expension is inner to the acore on the case, and is on the basis that withdrawal limits and other terms and conditions vary from account in account, lights are written except for the 1.0% p.a. bonus, which is parameted to be added in your account until 3 by December 1998. This is a limited offer. Rates corrier at time of going to press, interest paul net of income tra. (currently 20%), Interest can be paid gross to UR residents until be sent with your application form Minimum initial investment \$2.500. Maximum investment \$2.6000. Maximum investment \$2.6000. Maximum investment \$2.6000.

## 15/JAPAN

A told

## Finale for the world's most elegant use of a dead cat

The shamisen, one of japan's traditional instruments, is under threat. This is good news for cats, says our correspondent in Tokyo

Of all the artifacts of traditional culture, few are so quintessentially Japanese as the musical instrument known as the shamisen. A three-stringed, elongated banjo with a piercing twangy note, the shamisen has been at the centre of traditional music for 400 years. It is the instrument played by geisha in their tea houses, and by musicians accompanying kabuki plays. Japanese music without the shamisen would be like a brass band without the trombone.

But recently, the unthinkable

skills are conspiring to threaten the very existence of the ancient instrument

LLOYD PARRY varies subtly The prob-

the shamisen is one of the most elegant uses Eiji Tokiwaza, a player of traever devised for a dead cat. The instruments are hand-crafted out of various exotic materials, including mulberry, sandalwood or quince for the frame, silk for the strings, ivory and tortoiseshell for the pegs and plectrum. But the most important ingredient is the hide which is tight-- the cured skin of Felis catus.

For the first few centuries after its introduction from China, China and Taiwan, but the forshamisen makers had little prob- eign animals are not up to lem securing supplies of their raw material, and even after the skins of domestic cats are of a 200 professional cat-nappers Yamanaka. who kept the trade in skins. Now that number has dwindled to just two. In the whole country, there is just a single tannery capable of curing cat skins. The situation to place." is so desperate that an association of shamisen makers is lobbying the government for permission to recycle a few of Last spring, Japan was dumbthe hundreds of thousands of struck by the decapitation of an cats which are put down by their 11-year-old boy in Kobe. His owners every year.

lem for the traditional musical was widely reported and disinstrument," says Toshio Ya-

wisting line

It is not that Japan lacks dead cats: government figures reveal that 303,000 of them were destroyed by their owners last year. The JMIA is anxiously waiting on a decision by the Tokyo city government for permission to reincarnate them in shamisen form, but an increasingly popular animal-rights lobby stands ranged against them.

"There is a world-wide movement in the world of medicine and science to experiment with substitute animal skins," says Yasuhiko Aida, secretary general of the Japan Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals. "The same should go for cat skins for

Dog skin can also be used to make shamisen, but only for cheaper, practice instruments. Artificial hides are constantly being improved, but profeshas happened: political cor- sional shamisen players insist rectness and the decline of old that there is no substitute for genuine cat.

> BY RICHARD ness of call skin used on from the cenedges," says

ditional shamisen ballads. "The subtle difference gives an instrument exquisite resonance." According to Mr Yamanaka, "with current technology, you cannot reproduce the subtle irregularity of thickness and thinness out of any synthetic skin".

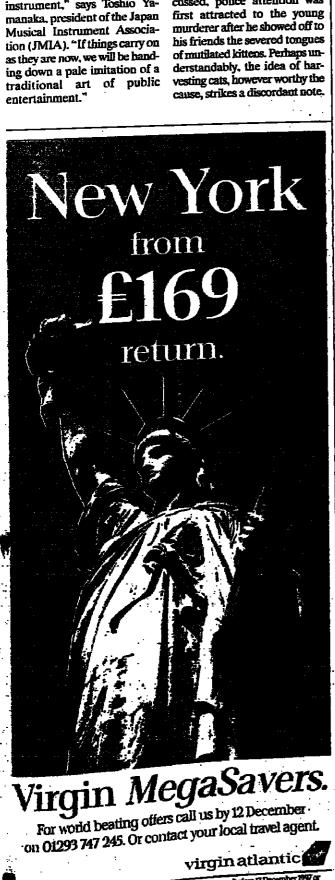
Desperate shamisen makly stretched over the sound box ers have tried importing substitute skins from less squeamish countries, such as scratch. "It is partly because the Second World War there were fine texture," explains Mr

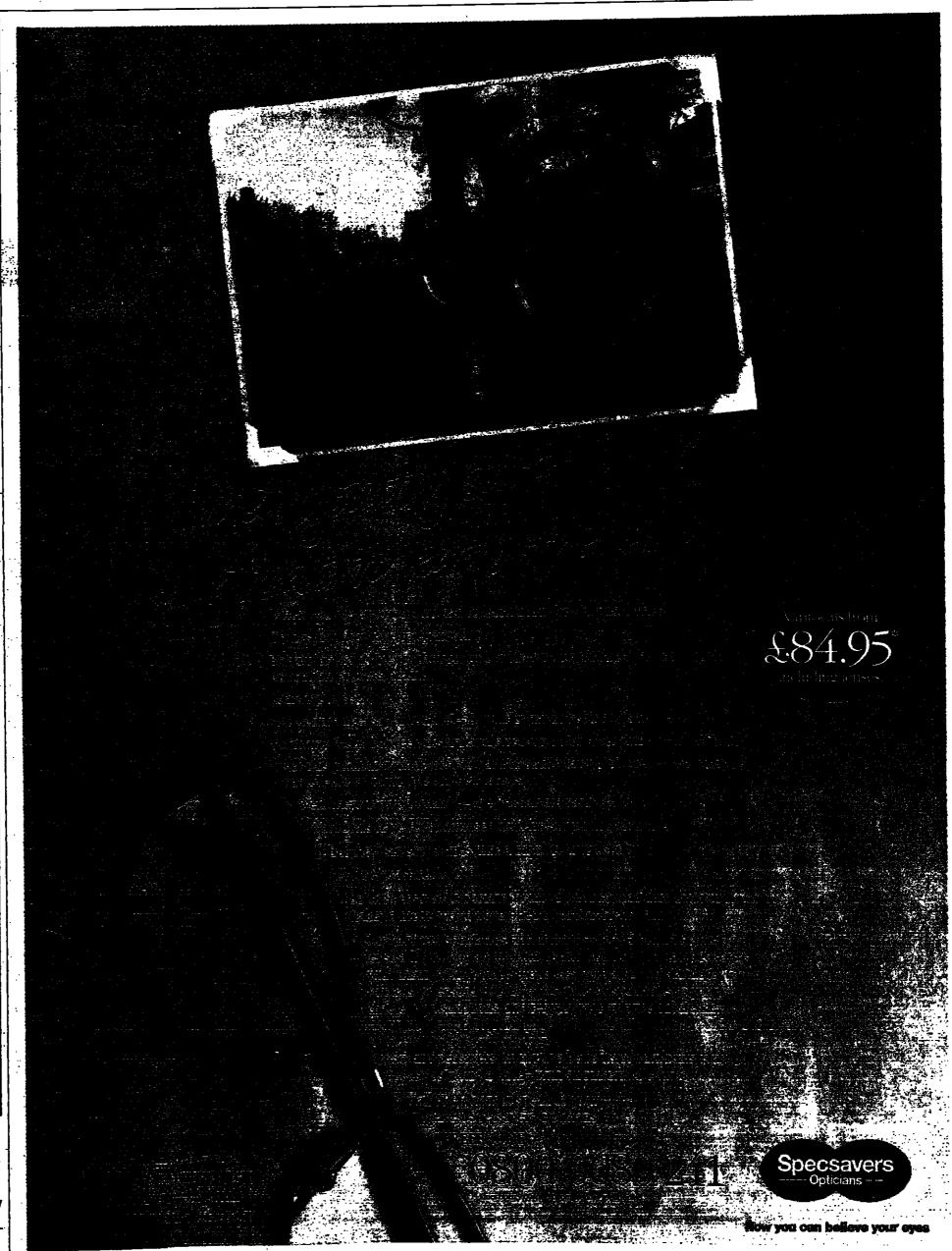
"Moreover, animals from different environments have a different skin quality and tanning methods vary from place

Psychologically, the instrument makers have chosen a bad time to lamet their campaign murderer turned out to be just "This is a life-or-death prob- 14 years old. In a twist, which cussed, police attention was









## Threat of more terror if Pakistani gets death penalty

A Pakistani convicted of killing CIA workers faces the death penalty. The case has heightened anti-American feeling in Pakistan, where extremists killed four American oil executives and their driver this week and are threatening to kill more.

A Pakistani man who shot CIA workers in anger over American treatment of Muslims is a merciless killer who is proud of the crime and deserves to die for it, a prosecutor said.

Under heavy security, jurors deliberated vesterday on whether to recommend the death penalty for Mir Aimal Kasi for killing CIA communications analyst Frank Darling in an ambush outside the spy agency headquarters on 25



to die, says prosecution

January 1993. The jury convicted Kasi of capital murder in Darling's death. After returning the verdict, however, the jury members sent a note to Judge J Howe Brown expressing fear for their safety. The note came to light in court this week, after four US oil company employees were gunned down in an ambush in Karachi, Pakistan.

A group sympathetic to Kasi

Kasi's family are an antempetto prejudice the jury the court and through the window of a car the American public.

Judge Brown ordered the tified hotel and kept under band's head blown away. armed guard. They returned on Defence lawyer Judith Barg-Thursday under heavy police er said Mr Kasi, 33, should get escort. The authorities said the life in prison because the killing jury has not been threatened, however, and that they had been sequestered to shield them from intense international publicity about the case.

According to trial testimony, Kasi made several confessions, each time saying the killing was vengeance for American meddling in Muslim countries.

claimed responsibility for the Actinical psychologist testikillings and promised more if feed that Kasi told him his only
Kasi is sentenced in death regret was not dying himself in
Outside the sourthouse, a shootout with FBI agents
Kasi's older businer. Mis Weis who strested him in Pakistan in
Kasi, stood in a steady wan and tane. It's hard to find a man
condemned the Karachi killings win is less thhappy about what
as the work of statisticans "hid he did than this man," he said.

den forces "He said kine vitation.

Darling 28 warned his wife

to duck but could not escape himself as Kasi fired an AK-47 stopped at traffic lights. Darling's widow testified that she jury to be isolated in an unidea- looked up to see part of her hus-

was partly explained by brain damage Kasi suffered at birth. Doctors testified for the defence that the frontal lobe of Kasi's brain shows evidence of damage.

Doctors who testified for the prosecution confirmed this, but said that it was not responsible for Kasi's behaviour.

— AP, Fairfax, Virginia



Members of the gay community in Sydney celebrating yesterday after the announcement that the city has won the right to stage the 2007 Gay Garney heating Political Research right to stage the 2002 Gay Games, beating Dallas, Long Beach, Montreal and Toronto

# NEW

NO NEED FOR A

Unibond No More Sealant Guns
Easy to use all purpose seclant gun.
Instant sealing with no need for gun.
Trim the topered nozzle to the required bead see and guide nose along desired line for sealing.
Can be used inside

NON-DAMAGING

SELF ADHESIVE HOOKS

3M 2 Medium Hooks with Command Adhesive Strips
Can be removed without damaging surfaces. Just stretch the tab and the adhesive releases cleanly without damaging walls or leaving behind any sticky residue. Hooks can be re-used, Just insert a replacement strip.

"THIS HOBBY TOOL

IS CORDLESS SO

YOU CAN USE IT

ANYWHERE"

Ryobi Performance

HTC-18

**Cordless Hobby Tool** 

4.8 volts. 16,000 rpm. includes

cut-off discs, grinding and

pollshing stones, engraving cutter, mandrel, collet and

SEALANT GUN

Can be used inside or out and is easily

overpainted, 300g.

3M 1 Large Hook with Command Adhesive Strips

GRAHAM HARKING

Sales Assistant

BAO COVENTRY

FLIP FRONT ORGANISER WITH SEPARATE COMPARTMENTS

With 3 front flip

"ONE-HANDED BARRY BROWN Sales Supervisor B&Q WALTHAM FOREST Black & Decker Vertical Clamping Workmate WM825 One handed operation. 620-800mm working Maximum load 250kg.

# COMPACT DESIGN WITH TWO SPEED FAN



Avallable in Goose, Kitten

Brass Door Hooks

Available in Clown, Rocking Horse or Bonnet designs (not shown).

or Cow designs.







**OPENING HOURS** Monday Saturday: Most stores 8 orn-8 pm.
Sunday: Most stores England & Woles 10 cm-4 pm (where Scotland & Northern Ireland 9am-5pm.
Certain store hours may vary please 'phone your nearest store to confirm BRITAIN'S BIGGEST D.L.Y CHAIN -FOR YOUR NEAREST STORE PHONE 0181 466 4166

internet - http://www.dly.co.uk Offices may vary at 8849. Wanshouses and 8849. Depots, Sizes shown are calmain. Offices subject to availability, please "phone to a check before travel.

YOU CAN DO IT WHEN YOU B&Q IT!

## Francophone states attacked for violating press freedom

The international press watchdog, Reporters sans Frontières, has accused 16 countries taking part in this week's Francophone summit of violating press freedoms, including the host nation Vietnam. A statement issued by the Paris-based group yesterday said five journalists had been killed in Francophone countries since the organisation's last summit in 1995. Four were in Cambodia, one in Rwanda, Rwanda, Tunisia, Burundi, Lebanon, Niger, Congo and Vietnam were accused of currently holding journalists in jail.

## Prostitutes protest in India

Thousands of prostitutes from India and neighbouring countries met at a Calcutta soccer stadium for a three-day convention demanded an end to the Prevention of Immoral Traffic Act (PITA) and legalisation of their trade. "We eat by renting our bodies. We demand the rights of a worker," read a placard in a procession of 3,000 men and women.

- Reuters, Calcutta

Corruption scandal

## 1,000 dead in Somalia floods

The death toll from floods in southern Somalia has risen to more than 1,000, the United Nations Department for Humanitarian Affairs (DHA) said. A DHA spokeswoman said the floods had also displaced more than 200,000 people. The death toll, based on figures from the UN humanitarian co-ordinator in Somalia, is double that released on Thursday by an aid agency, Care International. - Reuters, Geneva

## Teacher guilty of child rape

A former Seattle elementary school teacher who bore the child of her 14-year-old student yesterday faced a sentence of more than seven years in prison for child rape. Mary Kay Le Tourneau had pleaded guilty to two counts of child rape, admitted having a sexual relationship with the boy that resulted in a daughter born in May. Her defence attorney will seek her release under a state program of mandatory psychological treatment. Le Tourneau's husband has filed for divorce and moved with their four children to Alaska. - Reuters. Seattle

#### Bishop accuses Indonesia

Bishop Carlos Belo of Dili accused Indonesian security forces of acting with "incalculable brutality" against students in East Timor. Student sources said there had been at least one death in an incident on Friday in which soldiers were said to have opened fire inside the university campus in Dili, the territory's capital. Bishop Belo was jointly awarded the Nobel Peace Prize with Timorese resistance spokesman Jose Ramos-Horta in 1996.

## Tamils blamed for blast in Colombo

accused of planting explosives at a power plant outside the Sri Lankan capital, Colombo, yesterday, which plunged parts of the city into darkness.

"A small group of Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eclam (LTTE) terrorists had fixed explosive devices designed to set off automatically on the fuel storage tanks of the Kelanitissa power station," the defence ministry

said in a statement. No one was injured by the blasts at the power station and two burning fuel storage tanks

were quickly extinguished. State radio quoted police as saying several people were betack, which came exactly one month after suspected members of the LTTE set off a massive explosion in the city's business district, killing 18 people and wounding more than 100.

month's blast.

"Security forces and the

Tamil "Tiger" separatists were Ceyton Electricity Board (CEB) officials took prompt action to douse the fire. Terrorists have failed in their attempt to destroy the power station," the defence ministry statement said.

The Defence Ministry said the authorities had re-started all the turbines at the plan. The area around the station had been sealed off as a precaution soon after the fire, and the authorities prevented people from

entering or leaving the city. Colombo has been under tight security since last month's rebel attack which damaged three hotels and several other buildings, including the twintower World Trade Centre. ing questioned after the at- Elsewhere, at least six policemen were killed in an attack by rebels in eastern Sri Lanka on

Friday, police officials said. The LTTE is fighting for a separate homeland for minority Tamils in Sri Lanka's north There was no comment from and east. The government says the LTTE on the latest incident. more than 50,000 people have It denied responsibility for last died in the war that began in



## The First Lady meets the President's wife

The world's cameras will be Yeltsins have been careful to independent professional revealed a secret her recipe for out in force today when Hillary Clinton and Naina Yeltsin meet in the Russian Yekaterinburg. For the former, who is touring former Soviet miliar as the air she breathes: the same cannot be said for her the term "First Lady".

iiled

rs

While an invigorated Boris wife has remained in the wings. Russia still resents her plate is always piled high. predecessor, Raisa Gorbachev, whose high profile viet system, Russian women and taste for designer clothes occupied a wide variety of and credit cards won her a reputation for extravagance. In conservative Russia, she was

avoid the same fate.

a society where the perception Rodham) continues to be President's home town of of the female sex is frequently limited to two stereotypes. The first is that of a beautiful, young, countries, the limelight is as fa- and essentially compliant woman who struts around in a mini-skirt, ornamenting the second is that of homely, elderly, and essentially compliant moth-Yeltsin has taken to the polit- er, who mops the sweat from life with "Borya". ical stage with new relish, his her husband's brow, looks after his children, and ensures his

The fact that under the Soprofessional jobs - Mrs Yeltsin herself trained as a construction engineer – has done little seen as bossy and assertive; the to change this. The idea of an band's complex character, she

woman (a Hillary Clinton They know they operate in when she still insisted on the

viewed with suspicion. At 65, exploiting the first stereotype is not open to ber, so Naina Yeltsin has opted for the second. She styles herself as housewife, mother and counterpart, who even balks at world for the ruling males. The granny, a fiercely loyal woman who occasionally breaks cover with interviews about home

> Although she has lashed out at her husband's foes, her public comments are usually bland. Before last year's election, she sought to woo voters with a television appearance. As the world's press waited with baited breath for a new detail that would open a door to her hus-

chocolate cake. Publicity photos showed her

peering maternally into a pram, tasting a pot of soup, and resting her head lovingly on her husband's chest. Her boldest move to date was to agree to co-chair Russia's newly launched Culture TV channel. Cloying though it may be, this image works. Criticism of Naina Yeltsin is rare. She has said she does not want to be the "first lady". She would rather "simply be the President's wife".

Such remarks are, of course, a matter of politics. But they also have the ring of truth. For the same reasons, they are, happily, words that we are unlikely to hear on the of Mrs Clinton.

## **Onassis Foundation quizzed** over kidnap of heiress

Athina Onassis Roussel is the richest child in the world, at 12 the sole heiress to the Onassis billions. Last week, a Swiss judge issued an arrest warrant for seven Israelis suspected of trying to kidnap her. Andrew Gumbel says investigators now believe the israelis acted on behalf of the Onassis Foundation, the trust that manages the family fortune.

This is a tale where nothing is as straightforward as it seems. According to the Swiss judiciary, a crack team of Israeli security agents with connections to the intelligence community spent much of this year tracking young Athina between St Moritz and her home near Lausanne.

Their purpose, according to judicial documents leaked to the Italian newspaper Corriere della Sera, was to kidnap the girl "according to instructions provided by the Onassis Foundation". The price for their work: \$100,000 (£59,000). The motive: to strike a definitive blow against the ambitions of Athina's father, Thierry Roussel, who has been embroiled in a series of bitter financial disputes with the Foundation following his divorce from Athina's mother, Christina Onassis, in 1987.

At stake are the \$3bn that Athina is estimated to be worth. Christina died in mysterious circumstances in Buenos Aires a year after her divorce, and the Foundation has struggled to maintain control over the money ever since. Mr Roussel, heir to a much smaller French pharmaceutical fortune, has argued that he has a right, as Athina's legal guardian, to manage her estate until she reaches adulthood. He is one of five trustees responsible for her financial future. The other four are Greek.

There have been court cases, accusations of greed and possessiveness, and insults. Mr Roussel has been painted as a moneygrubbing playboy determined to deny Athina access to her Greek heritage; he in return has complained of threats to his safety.

The kidnap theory surfaced publicly 10 days ago and was spread around Switzerland and Israel by Mr Roussel and his lawyers. According to the Swiss magistrates, the Israeli team pretended to be tourists on a mountain-biking tour of Switzerland as they prepared to swoop on the girl. Not out of the control of the trustees of her foreveryone accepts this version of events, how-



father and the foundation managing her fortune

legations, which centred on a private security firm run by former Shin Bet agents, ISC, but they soon concluded there were no grounds to prosecute. They said they believed the Israelis had been tracking Mr Roossel not with the aim of kidnapping him or his daughter, but merely to gather information that could help the Foundation in its various legal wrangles, and they

dropped the case. The Foundation accused Mr Roussel of mounting a vindictive media campaign. "This is part of his plans to freeze the girl tune even to the point of jeopardising her mal statement would be issued on Monday.

FREE TOMORROW WITH THE NEW-LOOK

ever. The Israeli police looked into the al-safety," it said in a statement. "This is both unacceptable and dangerous."

> The Swiss investigating magistrate. Jacques Delieutraz, has refused to back down. Last week, he issued seven arrest warrants covering attempted kidnapping. preparatory acts to commit a crime and belonging to a criminal organisation.

On Monday, one of the Israelis, Ronen Balulu, was picked up in Milan and is expected to be extradited to Switzerland. It is not clear what, if anything, he has told the police.

Yesterday, the Onassis Foundation did not want to comment further. It said a for-

#### Corruption scandal threatens close Yeltsin ally

Prosecutors in Moscow will quizz one of

prompting rumours that Mr Chubais will suffer the same fate.

Mr Yeltsin will be loathe to lose him. its chances of being a hot seller are seen tors and international institutions, no-

is first deputy prime minister, appeared on television yesterday, where he admitted the fee was "high". He denies wrongdoing, however, offering to pay most of the money to a new charity, the Fund for Berezovsky, a tycoon and rival of Mr the Protection of Private Property.

officials about the payment, which w Oneximbank. The bank was recently among the winning bidders for a valuable slice of the state telecoms monopoly, Svyazinvest. The scandal is suspected as being an attempt at revenge by Boris

the government's top officials, Anatoly He was the driving force behind his re- as nil. Yesterday, the Moscow prosecu-Chubais, chief architect of its privatisa- election campaign, and is a key contact tor, Sergei Gerasimov, said he intendtion programme and darling of Western point with Western governments and in- ed to interrogate Mr Chubais and other

investors, over a corruption scandal. Mr Chubais is one of several top of tably the International Monetary Fund. from Segodnya-Press, an affiliate of ficials who received a \$90,000 book advance from a publishing company partly owned by a bank which is one of the biggest beneficiaries of state sell-offs. One of the five authors, Alexander Kazakov, Boris Yeltsin's first deputy chief of staff, was fired by the President yesterday,

A nervous-looking Mr Chubais, who

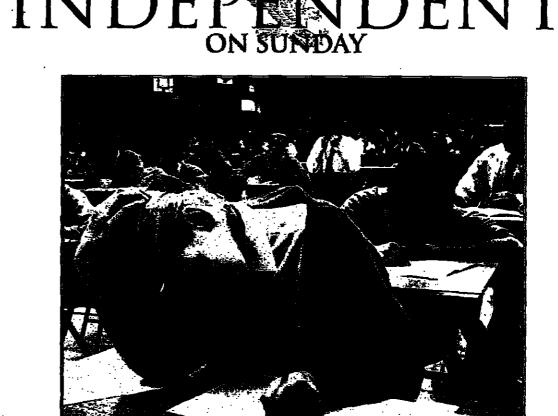
Although the book, titled The History of Russian Privatisation is unpublished,

Chubais recently sacked by Mr Yeltsin. He was a losing bidder for Svyazinvest.

# San Francisco from return.

Book on or before 12 December 1997. Travel must come between 26-31 December 1997. Passenger times, duties a

#### ALL YOUR CHARITIES CAN GET EXTRA I've recently discovered a new way of giving to charity - new to me, anyway. It means all the causes you support can have extra money. It's the CharityCard. First you decide how much you want to give to charity. You pay that money into your own CharityCard account. Then the tax man adds more to it. This means you have what you've already put in, plus an extra 23% to give away! Now, that's what I call a good idea! YOUR PERSONAL CHOICE OF CHARITIES You can use the CharityCard for making personal donations over the phone or by post. You'll receive a special Charity 'Chequebook' as well. And you can also arrange standing orders for regular gifts. Who you give to, how much you give and when you do it are all entirely up to you. You can make donations to absolutely any charity you choose, big or small. TIME TO CHANGE YOUR MIND? Isn't it time you changed your mind about giving to charity? Call free now or use the coupon provided. FIND OUT MORE, CALL FREE Virgin MegaSavers. Mr/Mrs/Ms For world beating offers call us by 12 December on 01293 747 245. Or contact your local travel agent. virgin atlantic Please send this com



## HOMEWORK FOR PARENTS ...

A special guide to the 100 top state schools – and how to get your child a place

Plus: seven sections for the best in news, comment, features, business, and sport

## Paul Daniel: don't bring the curtain down on the ENC

Paul Daniel is running the English National Opera at the most threatening moment in its history. In his first interview since taking over the helm, he tells David Lister why the company isn't ready to guit the Coliseum.

After tonight's premiere of Ver-di's Falstaff, Paul Daniel, music director and acting artistic head of ENO, will come on stage and make a political speech. It will hegin: "Ladies and gentlemen, you have seen tonight what it is that makes this company unique

..." He has been making that same speech after almost every performance for the past highly charged fortnight. He usually gets a thunderous ovation.

After several years of largely self-inflicted wounds, there is a buzz about the ENO again. Its audience figures are up. it is reacquainting itself with critical acclaim for standards of production and musical direction. It has dropped its deeply unpopular plan to apply for lottery money to leave the Coliseum and fund a new building outside the West End. And it has won lottery money to help pay off its deficit and make a fresh start financially.

And then along comes the Culture Secretary, Chris Smith, with a proposal that the ENO should leave the Coliseum and move into the Royal Opera House, which it would then have to share with both the Royal Opera and the Royal Ballet.

The ENO's loyal followers and its loyal staff are appalled, fearing that a move to Covent Garden could lose it both its audience and its distinct identity - opera in English at rea-Sonable prices ( ELLM) balcony to £55 best stalls), nurturing homewith the community through much-praised education work. and championing new opera in

its contemporary opera studio, The Culture Secretary's pro-

already a growing feeling of sympathy with the ENO, the feeling that they may have been dragged into the Government's determination to sort out Covent Garden, and may have been unjustly tarred with the same brush of managerial incompetence and profligacy ironic when you consider that ENO has just had a massive vote of confidence in the form of a £4.5m stabilisation award from

And just at the time when the ENO needs a political streetfighter to lead its campaign to stay in its home, it finds itself without a general director following the resignation of Dennis Marks in September. And so the 39-year-old conductor Paul Daniel, who only arrived from Opera North in August, now finds himself in the bear pit of politics.

the Arts Council.

It sounds like a walkover for Mr Smith - until you meet Paul Daniel, and realise that the company, in its hour of need, has almost by accident found itself a most sincere and persuasive advocate and ambassador, with an honesty and openness that those more experienced in cultural politics tend sometimes to mislay over the years.

Paul Daniel is a tall, skinny enthusiast, his prematurely greying curls contradicted by a boyishly youthful face. He is hard to interrupt, so passionate is he in his championing of the ENO, where he began his operatic career back in 1982, before moving on to become music director first of Opera Factory in 1987 and then of Opera North, in Leeds, in 1990.

It must, I suggest, be odd to

he thrust into such a political hotbed only weeks after returning to ENO as its new music director, "Yes, I don't do much music at the moment," he replies a little sadly, "and I'm not a politician. But something really interesting is nappening. It's like in a war. What has hit me office people? You've lost one grown talent, developing links in the face with this company is the intensity of feeling within. The people here are all pulling together, though we don't actually know who we are fighting. The Treasury? No. Public taste?

support as we can give them and vice versa.

Daniel, a newcomer to the rough-and-tumble and even sheer bad manners of politics, is still angry at the speed of the Smith announcement. "Our staff should not have woken up to hear me talking about it on the Today programme. That is not the way things should happen or people should be treated in the real world."

But now that he has digested the Smith proposal, he is intense and forthright in his dismissal of it. "The company is the most important thing. But if we go to Covent Garden, the company will be decimated. How do you identify with a company which is in a building for a bit, and in a caravan for the other bit, or indeed out of work? Our evidence will be that e need our base."

Yet, even giving proper evidence to the Eyre inquiry strikes him as requiring a lean of logic. "How can we comment on the Smith proposal? We don't know what is going to be in the new Covent Garden opera house. We haven't seen the plans. If they have got any sense, they will have made it work for the Royal Opera and Royal Ballet. There may not be things like sufficient office space for another company, orchestra rehearsal space, set storage, all manner of things. I've worked at the Royal Opera House and it's bad enough having to share it with the Royal Ballet. Ask Amsterdam what happens when

you try to merge companies." Merge? Isn't that the dreaded word everyone is avoiding, and Smith is positively ruling out? Again, Daniel is too honest to ignore its likelihood. "Of course some of the activities would merge. The box-office, for example. Our box-office staff are bursting with what this company stands for. But what happens when you've one batch of boxof your best lobbying groups."

The lobbying group for the ENO is likely to be a vociferous one. But it, like Daniel, has certain questions to answer. And he does not dodge them. First, there is Chris Smith's strongest argument: the lack of touring by supposedly national companies. Daniel admits: "It is a problem that the company is

called English National Opera and is not seen to be national. But people forget two things. Opera North actually started out as English National Opera North and it fulfils that role. Also, it was the Arts Council that stopped ENO touring in the Eighties, so that there could be 'spheres of influence' for

18/ARTS

small-scale companies. Nevertheless he is clearly aware of the perceived anomary and says that the company is exploring both touring and a short residency outside London.

Then there is the awkwardness for the ENO that, up until recently, its management was telling the world how much they wanted a new theatre and to get out of the Coliseum - the same Coliseum in which they are now so keen to remain and which their audiences so adore.

Thankfully, that particular

piece of foolishness is now history. Daniel explains: "If you're offered the chance of having a study to see if you could do better, then you take that chance. Of course you take money to investigate a theatre where you could perform every single night of the year. But the new building is off the agenda. The Coliseum has enormous strengths, marvellous sightlines, and it's always acknow-

'The company

is the most

important thing.

If we go to Covent

Garden, it will be

decimated'

audience's point of view." There is also the not unpersuasive argument that the Coliscum would make an admirable national dance house. Daniel does not duck this. "First, I would say that the English National Ballet [who do a regular season at the Coliseum] has been ignored in all of this. ENB is important. A dance house is

part of the delicate equation. We

can use that. We can do things. If the dance season happens during Christmas weeks, that gives us the opportunity to do other things in other places." It is a slightly guarded

answer. But it would seem to suggest the possibility of a Coliseum housing the ENO but giving more weeks to dance. Daniel also has to face the fact that the last music director

(Sian Edwards) resigned with general director - not a signal to the public of a wholly stable company. "Yes, I can see that," he answers. "But that makes my job doubly important, because I have got to stand up and fight for what I believe in."

I put to him one other problem. For all the talk of ENO identity, it seemed to have, with its radical, updated interpretations, a much more distinct

identity in the Eighties, during the so-called "Power House" era of the Pountney/Elder/ Jonas regime. Daniel is bullish on that one. "OK, what was it? And how many productions can you name that made that identity? In fact, it lasted about four years, that period in which people knew they were on a

roller-coaster ride." And, he implies, our collective memory does play some direction when this crisis is ing to do with the Power House regime. Rigoletto [Jonathan Miller's perennial New York mafia production] came out of George Harewood's regime. It's important to remember that this company had a much longer evolution. And actually there's a much stronger sense of people here knowing what

they stand for than they did in

Even when he returns fulltime to musical duties, Daniel is not looking for change for its own sake. "Musical standards here are very high. I think revolution is a very mediocre way of behaving," he says somewhat memorably.

CLIVE BARDA

he little

He is adamant that he will not be applying for the vacant general director's post. He wants to concentrate on music tics don't mix easily.

Now it is his turn to interrupt. "But music bas always been political. Verdi was political. He emptied theatres."

Matthew Warchus's new ENO production of Verdi's 'Falstaff' opens at 7.30pm tonight at the London Coliseum, St Martin's Lane, WC2 (0171-632 8300)

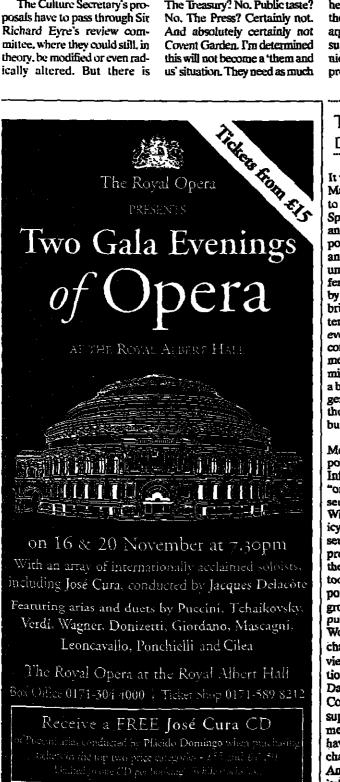
Jeborah Ros

"EDIA- the

Woodward c

Your child le

advertisem!



#### THE WEEK IN THE ARTS DAVID LISTER

It was a curious speech by the arts minister. Mark Fisher, to museum directors urging them to learn from Harvey Nichols, Marks & Spencer and Tesco in exploiting retail space, and opening outlets in high streets and at airports. Hackles were raised among the great and the good in the audience at the Museums and Galleries Commission (MGC) con-ference. Most were astonished at being asked

by a Labour minister to ape a luxury Knightsbridge store. "Is this the Diana factor?" muttered one distinguished director. I found an even more perplexed gentleman during the coffee break after Mr Fisher's speech. He told me, shaking his head in consternation: "I don't mind the Harvey Nichols reference. But it's a bit much being asked to emulate Tesco." The gentleman in question is a board member of the National Gallery. His name: Simon Sains-

Meanwhile, research into museum admission policies carried out by the Central Office of Information for the MGC proclaims that "only 4 per cent of those who do not visit museums cite admission charges as a barrier". With the Government about to make a policy statement on charging and national museums, this finding, emphasised in the MGC press release, could well be ammunition for them to embrace charging. But it doesn't take too much reflection to wonder about the importance of such a finding. Surely, the key group of people are the 55 per cent of the public interviewed who do go to museums. Would they be put off by an admission charge? This group was not asked for their views on charging. Apparently such a question to them would have been too loaded. David Barrie, the director of the National Art Collections Fund, which is passionate in its support of free admission, says: "It seems to me that there are two crucial questions that have yet to receive a clear answer. Will charges affect the total number of visitors? And will visitors be deterred from repeat visits?" Precisely. Without those two pieces of

information, this much-heralded research falls

Examples of catering abuse at arts venues continue to come in, with complaints of allegedly exorbitant prices for interval snacks. But price sensitivity is clearly pitched at different levels across the country. One reader writes to complain of a 90p Cornetto at the West Yorkshire Playhouse, but I have to tell him that in London that would be considered cheap. Mrs Gwen Bradley shares my distaste with prices at the Royal Albert Hall in London after she purchased a snack of "two plates of smoked salmon on dry brown bread buns. with a small amount of garnish and a few Tortilla chips". The cost was £12. She wrote to the management to inquire whether a mistake had been made. She received a reply from the caterers Letheby & Christopher confirming that the price was the correct amount and assuring her "it is only by receiving such letters as yours that we can strive to improve the service that we offer". I hope they strive quickly. For that price, I could take the coach to Leeds and enjoy a Cornetto.



THE WEEK ON RADIO ROBERT HANKS

## When Hardy turns softy

the Eighties."

The big problem about being sions of incompetence - 80 an angry young man - or, indeed, woman - is knowing what to do when you're not so young any more. Occasionally, a young man will stay angry, like John Osborne, who well into middle age seethed at a pitch that few of us rarely achieve even momentarily. For most, though, as the imperfections of world and self seep in, it's easier just to mellow. And this seems to be what's happening to Jeremy Hardy.

Not very long ago he was one of the tetchiest comedians around, incandescent with loathing for the political right and contempt for the complacent centre; the last series but one of Jeremy Hardy Speaks to the Nation supposedly provoked more complaints than any other programme on Radio 4 that year. A right-wing Labour government ought to have stoked

him up to new frenzies. Power and How to Get It (R4, Wed) contains its share of anti-Blair jokes - among the issues he promises to tackle in this series is "How a Tory politician gets to be leader [significant pause] ... of the Labour Party"; but the whole thing feels dispiritingly off the boil.

Partly, this is because Hardy is disconcerted by the business of interviewing. A little too

that when John Nott, defence secretary during the Falklands War, tells him that the war did this country a great deal of good, we hear Hardy in voiceover apologising for failing to put the obvious follow-up question, viz, what good was that?

But this itself is a symptom of how Hardy has lost his edge. He is no longer propelled forwards by indignation; lacking sores - with a big kiss) interthat momentum, many of his jokes hang limp in the air quips are stuck on to a topic,

rather than developing from it. I'm in danger of overdoing the disappointment here: he is still funnier and far more politically astute than most other contemporary comics; but this is below par.

Fortunately, there are still comics with reserves of fury to draw on. Chris Morris, the darkling prankster of On the Hour, sacked from his Radio 1 solo show after announcing the deaths of, inter alia, Jimmy Savile and Michael Heseltine, is back, as chilly and acid as ever. His new project is called Blue Jam - one of his less appealing trademarks is a tendency to come up with phrases (another was "infinite misery jumper") that sound like early Seventies

progressive rock groups.

an idea or a mood to excess and beyond, but the result is often too harsh or too odd to make you laugh). But it is hypnotically fascinating, and formally the most radical thing I have heard in years: a tightly edited mix of music loops and samples, over which Morris and chums perform weird and even vicious sketches (a doctor cures every ailment - including genital

spersed with a selection of in-

ongruously mellow records. If it's funny you're after, though, stick to On the Town with the League of Gentlemen (R4, Thurs), a surreal sketch show set in a dead-end northern town and featuring such characters as Bob/Barbara, a taxi-driver caught in mid-sex change, the masturbationobsessed Uncle Harvey (who rebukes his nephew for spending too much time with "Madame Palm and her five lovely daughters") and an incompetent vet with the catchphrase "I've got some rather

upsetting news". At first hearing, it is nothing out of the ordinary; but it has the same cumulative effect as The Fast Show, coupled with a pleasingly grotesque sensibility and an underlying awareness of human unpleasantness that Blue Jam (R1, Thurs) is makes it seem not just funnier much of the programme con- not especially funny (Morris's than the Jeremy Hardy series, sists of disclaimers and confes- strength is that he will pursue but politically more astute.

حكدًا من الاعل

## The little man from nowhere who made it ever so big

Bernie Ecclestone has caused the Labour government its biggest headache to date. Yet few outside motor racing really know him because his passion for wheeling and dealing is cloaked in obsessive secrecy. Behind the intrigue is a tale of extraordinary ruthlessness

No one seems very clear about exactly how much money Bernie Ecclestone has given to the Labour Party (or for that matter to the Conservatives) in recent times. The fact is not surprising. No one seems very clear about anything relating to the pugnacious little man who began life, it is said, as a gas fitter, and has made himself the world's highest paid executive, transforming Formula One motor-racing in the process into the world's biggest sport after football.

Admittedly much has been written about him. About his Lear Jet, his sumptuous homes in Chelsea and Gstaad and his glass-palace office (with indoor swimming pool surrounded by Astroturi) overlooking Hyde Park. About his 6ft 2in former model wife. Slavica, who is almost 30 years his junior as well as 11 inches taller, and who, for tax reasons, owns 80 per cent of his businesses. About the £29.7m he earned in 1994, the largest year's salary ever recorded in Britain. And about his socialising with rock stars such as Chris de Burgh and leading politicians such as Kenneth Clarke. Not to mention his entertainment of Tony Blair and

feur than Damon Hill. And yet, in spite of all the ewspaper articles, a cloud of secrecy hangs around how exactly how he made his vast fortime. No one even seems sure of his origins. His father is variously described as a trawlerskipper, and an engineer. He is reported as having been born in Suffolk - and in Kent. His early money is said to have been made from a motorcycle business, but also from car auctions and from property deals. What is beyond doubt is the

sons, who were whisked round

Silverstone by no less a chauf-

change he has wrought in motor-racing. Thirty years ago Grand Prix cars were bolted together in lock-up garages and driven by gentlemen amateurs or Latin daredevils. Team managers such as Frank Williams were so strapped for cash that he was once forced to conduct his affairs from a public telephone box. Today the sport is a \$1bn a year industry, regularly watched in more than 200 countries with 27,000 hours of Grand Prix television attracting a global audience of 45 million.

Bernie Ecclestone controls it all. He is president of the Formula One Constructors' Association (FOCA) which represents the teams. He is vice-president of the Federation Internationale de l'Automobile (FIA) the sport's governing body. His companies include Formula One Promotions and Administrations (FOPA) which strikes the

## BY PAUL VALLELY

deals with the circuits and which alone has made him £30m over the past three years. Other companies – in which he also owns 99 per cent of the shares – control packages for TV stations and ringside hospitality. "Bernie runs the sport like his personal fieldom," said one Formula One insider. "He even controls the parking bays."

His business empire is

based at the historic Battle of Britain aerodrome, Biggin Hill. There FOPA makes the electronic gadgetry used to produce the exhilarating onboard television pictures of Grand Prix races. But his money is earned working 16hour days behind the tinted windows of the long, sleek. grey executive coach known as Bernie's Bus which dominates the paddock at every Grand Prix circuit. It is there that an endless stream of drivers, agents, team proprietors and circuit managers conduct the unending succession of deals which are Ecclestone's meat and drink. His appetite for deals - always conducted in deadly secret - is formidable.

He has made enemies on the way. Environmental protesters in Australia, he claims, once threatened to shoot him, and the sport is consumed with apocryphal tales about the unhappy fate of those who crossed Bernie. But he has made friends too. The huge amount of money he has brought into the sport, transforming obscure engineers into multi-millionaire managing directors of race teams, produces an intense loyalty. None of them will say anything in public against him. Formula One is like a secret society, and Bernie Ecclestone is its godfather, albeit one who now craves the respectability of the knighthood he hopes his political donations will one day

Ecclestone began in motorracing by driving Formula Three 500cc single-seater cars against drivers like Stirfing Moss. But an accident in 1951 put an end to his ambitions behind the wheel and he turned to management. In 1958 he bought the Connaught Formula One team and later the troubled Brabham team which included stars like Graham Hill, Niki Lauda and Nelson Piquet.

As a team proprietor he got seat on FOCA where the old-style racing impresario Lord Hesketh recalls him entering like a whirlwind. Until then the sport had been controlled by the race organisers who negotiated with driving teams individually. Ecclestone persuaded the teams to negotiate together and within a few years the whip hand had passed from the circuits to him. (How the increased fees were divided between him and the teams was, and is, a closely guarded secret.) More recently Ecclestone has taken to asking fees which the organisers cannot raise, whereupon his company FOPA takes over as promoter - a strategy which earned him £16m in 1994 alone.

Next he tried to persuade the teams to set up a company to take over trackside advertising. When they said no he encouraged Paddy McNally, the sometime squire of the Duchess of York, Sarah Ferguson, to set up a business. The relationship between the two men remains, like so much in Ecclestone's life, mysterious.



Happy couple: Bernie Ecclestone with his wife Slavica

Photograph: Absolute

But Bernie openly lobbies for McNally's company which earns more than £4m a year.

After that came a firm to sell corporate hospitality in luxury lobster and champagne marquees in the paddocks behind the pits where firms pay £1,000 a head for their guests to rub shoulders with the grimy and the glamorous.

But it was his deal in the mid-Eighties with the European Broadcast Union which was the clincher. It represents all major European TV stations with a combined audience of 375 million. To get permission to cover their local Grand Prix every station had to guarantee to broadcast all the races - and live. As soon as that happened sponsorship flooded in and Formula One cars became the fastest cigarette packets in the world. Marlboro now pays McLaren more than \$35m a year and Ferrari around \$20m. Rothmans, Mild Seven and Benson & Hedges all contribute towards an industry total of \$160m a year.

From there on it was just a question of upping the ante. Ecclestone switched Formula One from BBC1 - which was paying £7m - to ITV, which offered 10 times as much. In 1993 he did a secret deal with Max Mosley, the president of the FIA which owns the Grand Prix television rights, to allow Ecclestone to administer them for the next 25 years - and for himself rather than the teams. He moved into discussions with Rupert Murdoch aimed at expanding satellite TV coverage of the increasingly popular sport with the advent of digital pay-TV next year. He has invested more than £30m of his own money in the digital revolution - a move which, he told the racing journalist Mortin Jacques in an interview in Esquire last year, he expects to yield more than £600m within five years. Such projections led him to explore the possibility of floating Formula One on the stock exchange, a move which his advisers Salomon Brothers suggest could yield £1.5bn.

All of this has raised cyebrows as well as cash. The deal with Mosley has attracted the attention of the European Commission. In 1983 – when the FIA was still a rival to Ecclestone – he persuaded its

then president, Jean-Marie Balestre, to give a job to a Bernie sidekick Max Mosley, the son of the fascist leader Sir Oswald Mosley. When Balestre eventually confided in Mosley about what a problem Ecclestone was Mosley suggested that the best way to neutralise Ecclestone was to co-opt him as FIA vice-president. Shortly after Mosley stood against Balestre and ousted him as president. The TV deal followed.

But there were three obstacles to Ecclestone's moneyprinting flotation. The first was a row within the industry. The division of the television cash had traditionally been governed by something called the Concorde Agreement. But three teams - Williams, McLaren and Tyrrell - have been refusing to sign the latest version. Where they had not been in a strong position with Ecclestone in the past, the flotation, originally planned to coincide with the British Grand Prix in July, gave the teams a valuable lever in negotiations. Last week industry insiders were saying that Bernie the Bargainer was now close to a deal with the three rebel teams.

The second stumbling block for the flotation plans was political. A threat by the European Union to outlaw sports sponsorship by tobacco companies was being blocked by Germany, Holland, Greece and the UK. They constituted an EU veto. But if one country changed its mind the veto would crumble. The manifesto promise of New Labour threatened to bring that about until the generous political donor Ecclestone, aided by the FIA director-general, David Ward (a former adviser to the late Labour leader John Smith), managed to persuade the new government to change its mind and exempt Formula One in circumstances which have produced the biggest controversy yet faced by Tony

Only the third obstacle remains. Karel Van Miert, the EU competition commissioner, is said to believe that excessively long exclusive contracts—such as the 25-year TV deal—are anti-competitive. Doubtless Bernie Ecclestone is working on him even now.

#### NEXT WEEK IN THE INDEPENDENT

#### MONDAY

softy

Deborah Ross interviews Martin Bell MEDIA+: the one real winner from the Woodward case



#### TUESDAY

The Fairies show the Royal Academy – magical or not?
NETWORK+: Ralph Nader campaigns in cyberspace



# WEDNESDAY Beloved and Bonk-more iffy moments from the diary of

THURSDAY

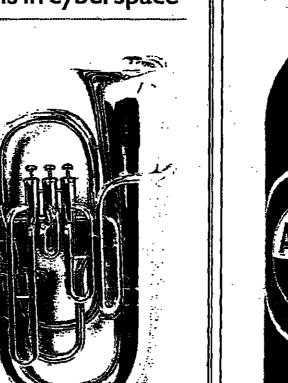
THURSDAY

Which instrument should

EDUCATION+: Which instrument should your child learn? Roy Hattersley—an advertisement for the state system?

a divorce

FRIDAY
THE EYE 28 pages of music, film and theatre



#### PRODUCT RECALL

## AMSTEL BEER

(330 ML BOTTLE SIZE ONLY)



HP Bulmer regret to announce that small chips of glass have been found in a very small number of bottles of its UK manufactured Amstel beer.

All stockists have been alerted and asked to remove stock from their shelves.

Anybody who has bottles of Amstel beer in their possession is advised not to open the bottles and the beer should not be consumed. If you have affected bottles, please return them unopened to the store from which they were purchased for a full refund.

This announcement includes all bottles of Amstel, whether bought singly or in a multi pack. Only bottles of Amstel produced and packaged in the UK are affected.

We will replace all stocks of Amstel with newly produced product...

For further information please call: 0845 600 0500

## Let's ban the cudgels and have a fair fight on the news-stands



EDITOR: ANDREW MARK DEPUTY EDITOR: COLIN HUGHES. ADDRESS: 1 CANADA SQUARE. CANARY WHARF. LONDON E14 5DL TELEPHONE: 0171 293 2000 OR 0171 345 2000 FAX: 0171 293 2435 OR 0171-345 2435

This week Rupert Murdoch turned petulant, saying there was "no way" he would call a truce in the newspaper price war, "No one else wants to call a truce, they ally good for consumers in the long run. insult me every day, so they can go to But the main reason we need a

Mr Murdoch first started cutting the price of The Times, readers of all newspapers have undoubtedly benefited from lower prices. Your pockets win, the publishers pockets lose. Last year the combined losses of the four broadsheets and their Sunday siblings came to £50m, give or take an undisclosed sum or two. But Mr Murdoch is not engaged in philanthropy, exerting a downward pressure on prices in order to bring Britain's high-quality press within reach of everyone. He wants to commandeer market share, rather than

compete for it on quality and performance grounds. It is one of the first lessons of economics that price wars are not usu-

insult me every day, so they can go to hell." he said. See you there, Ropert.

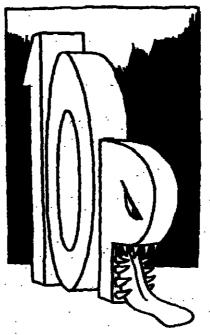
Then, with the breathtaking ability to declare that black is white which has performed that the said to the said the existing competition law there he is today, he added the office that in order to survive. It is a mathematic that country."

Competition, eh? Well, there is said the existing thould be made illested that of the cudgel, and they are different things. There is competition which widers consumer choice, and there is the abase of power. Over the past four years, when Mr Murdoch first started cutting the price.

But the main reason we need a change in the existing competition law at the main reason we need a change in the existing competition law at the main reason we need a change in the existing competition law and there are departed in the Murdoch's pricing should be made illested.

The price of power departs to the competition below the competition below the competition which water debated in the of power. Over the past four years, when the price of Lords on Thursday.

Predatory pricing is hard to define and hard to legislate against. But British com-petition law has been too weak for too long. It is perfectly possible to give regulators the power to stop price cuts that are likely to lead to a reduction in consumer choice. The present law has two defects. First, the real restrictions on price-cutting only come into play if they are an abuse of a "dominant" position in a particular market. Because Rupert Murdoch does not control an overwhelming share of the newspaper mar-



ket (he controls something short of 40 per cent of national newspaper circulation), the Office of Fair Trading ruled that his price cuts were a "reasonable commercial strategy". The fact that he is using a dominant position in the satel-

lite television market to fund his ambition to become dominant in the newspaper market was deemed irrelevant. Second, the regulatory system is far too slow in reacting to the fast and often misleading footwork of the likes of Mr Murdoch. As Lord McNally told the House: "In the newspaper industry it isn't enough for a victim to be bleeding. Apparently our present legislation requires a corpse before the Office of Fair Trading will act."

It was disappointing that Lord Mc-Nally, a Liberal Democrat, and Viscount Astor, a Conservative, should have needed to table amendments. The Labour manifesto promised as "an early priority" that the Government would "adopt a tough 'prohibitive' approach to deter anti-competitive practices and abuses of market power". Just before the manifesto was published. Tony Blair undermined it by politely asking the owner of The Sun to exercise his great power "responsibly", adding elliptically: "I'd like to see a situation where that happens not by legislation ... " Well, Tony, it is no use relying on voluntary restraint from this brand of monopolist. You can forget that forlorn

When the Competition Bill was published it contained not so much a U-turn as a series of ominous omissions. One in particular was the failure to recognise that the media is a special case in competition law. In the balance between price and diversity, diversity should count for more in a healthy democracy. What that means, boiled down, is that if this newspaper did not exist it would be a good idea - for the democratic health of the country - if it were commercially practicable to invent it.

The opportunity for the Government to steel its position remains. On Thursday, the Government put up Lord Haskel to read out an anodyne brief in reply to Lord McNally. There is plenty of time before the Bill's next stage for Lord Simon, along with Margaret Beckett and Mr Blair, to think again. We are looking, too, to those prominent Labour politicians who were so vocal in defence of our view before the election to voice their real views again, now that they are in power. step forward Robin Cook, Mo Mowlam, Chris Smith, and others. Mr Murdoch said he wasn't worried by the prospect of American-style anti-monopoly laws. Take him at his word.

#### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

#### Branson and F1

Sir: I have immense admiration for Richard Branson and am as opposed to tobacco advertising as he is, but instead of blindly criticising Tony Blair's decision ("Keep your promises or lose my backing", 13 November), he should recognise it for what it is: harsh but pragmatic.

Formula One should not be given exemption for all time from a ban on tobacco sponsorship; it should be given, say, three years to find alternative sponsors. Richard Branson has the means to sponsor Formula One himself; he should put his immense wealth where his well-intentioned mouth is. PETER BRADSHAW Liverpool

Sir: So Richard Branson feels of Formula One tobacco sponsorship.

Branson who runs Virgin Cross Country trains? The same trains which include a smoking coach, the gaseous contents of which pervade the adjacent coaches? The same trains which force nonsmokers to sit in a foul atmosphere because of lack of seats in the non-smoking coaches?

Branson should decide which side of the fence he wants to be on. A WINSOR

Newcastle upon Tyne

Sir: The search for funding for political parties must end at a source which is unidentified. freely given, forgotten, without ties. I have no idea of the sums involved, but the unclaimed prizes from the National Lottery would seem a candidate. Any takers? MIKE MYERS Knaresboroueh. North Yorkshire

Sir: Am I the only person who objects to tobacco industry sponsorship of Formula One on the grounds that it encourages young smokers to develop antisocial and reckless driving habits with attendant dangers for passive drivers such as myself? STEPHEN SENN Harpenden, Hertfordshire

#### Tagging lessons

Sir: The Prison Reform Trust the electronic monitoring of offenders. But in the light of the Home Secretary's announcement that tagging is to be ex-tended (report, 13 November), cently in Norfolk as the guest of the tagging company Geografix may be of interest.

Those tagged in Norfolk have included a small number of women and one elderly sex offender, but the majority have criminal justice caseload - unemployed men in their 20s and 30s, convicted, not for the first time, of offences of dishonesty or drunken violence. Although there was initial opposition from scatencers, curfew orders subject to tagging are now increas-

ingly being used in the Norfolk courts. A success rate of around 90 per cent is claimed, and some key findings about best use

First, the periods of curfew must be realistic. If they are too long, then offenders are simply

Second, the tag alone achieves very little unless it is backed up with other forms of help (Geografix has been surprised by the relationships those tagged have built up with its monitoring staff).

tagged have not, in general, objected to their homes being

"let down" by Labour because reports provided for the courts, at the end of sentence, on every tagged offender. This practice Is this the same Richard ought to be extended to every order imposed by the courts.

Of course, not everyone takes other sanctions.

Although tiny in scale at the moment, tagging also raises the spectre of far more pervasive state surveillance. I am told that the state of Texas is planning to launch its own satellite to tag the whereabouts of up to 500,000 of its citizens. STEPHEN SHAW

London EC1

#### Tibet's agony

Sir: Angela Lewis ("Whose freedom is it anyway? , 13 November) attacks the integrity of film and pop stars who support the Tibet movement. Her disdain should not extend to the

that more than a million Tibetans have died and over 6,000 monasteries been destroyed since the Chinese invasion in 1950 (the events of which are dramatised in Seven Years in Tihas always been sceptical about ber). Or that the current regime continues to repress and imprison those who speak out against the occupation - such as Ngawang Sangdrol, a 20-yearold nun serving an 18-year jail the impressions I gained re-sentence for singing nationalist songs and shouting "Free Tibet!"

ing of Tibet will, as Angela Lewis hypothesises, lead to the outbreak of World War III, then perhaps we had all better turn a blind eye and leave Ngawang been offenders familiar to any Sangdrol and hundreds more political prisoners, including the eight-year-old Panchen Lama, to rot in jail. **ALISON REYNOLDS** Director, Free Tibet Campaign

PATRICK NASH

Landon Ni

Director, Tibet Society

If there is a risk that the free-

of the tag have now emerged.

being set up to fail.

Third, the relatives of those

turned into an extension of the penal sphere. Tagging does introduce an element of structure into lives which may otherwise be fractured and disorganised. I was also impressed by the

to the tag. Almost all offenders try to tamper with it in some way and I was told of one who tried to bribe his monitoring officers and of another who deposited all the electronic hardware in the Norfolk Broads. And it remains open to question whether tagging represents a sensible investment of public money compared with

Prison Reform Trust

justification for that support. Does she need reminding



The red grouse: victim of uncontrolled birds of prey?

Photograph: Planet Earth

asked about moor C. a moor in the Highlands of comparable Sir: Duff Hart-Davis reports (8 size to Langholm. Here the pro-November) the findings of the Langholm report Birds of Prey tection of the raptors did not cause a huge increase and the and Red Grouse, recently launched in Edinburgh. The grouse numbers held up well. results were not in dispute. On This moor was dominated by Langholm as soon as the raptors heather and did not have the massive grazing pressure of received their proper legal pro-

grouse failed to peak and in a season when 2,000-4,000 might The sheep in Langholm have be expected to be shot there been responsible for altering the balance between the hen harwere fewer than 100 bagged. riers and the red grouse. Con-However this should not cause the knee-jerk reaction of version of heather to grass attempting to manage (kill) the encourages the small birds, parrare raptors. We should rather ticularly meadow pipits, and address the underlying ecologsmall mammals that the harriers conifers, eat and makes conditions for the CHRIS MEAD ical reasons for the lack of red grouse worse. This problem Thetford, Norfolk

selective advice from scientists

used for decision-making and

how? Why was information

given to the public misleading?

forced; research was actually

curtailed; infected bovine feed

was knowingly exported; phar-

maceutical companies were ad-

vised not to research methods

of treatment; the EU was told

ahead of the world so it is not

surprising that we hit the rocks

first. A judicial inquiry is the way

to avoid this for the future. At-

tempts by a new Food Standards

UK agriculture has sailed

that there was no risk.

Regulations were not en-

years at Langholm.

At the Edinburgh launch I is well understood by many ecologists. Scottish Natural Heritage hopes to come to an arrangement with the Department of Agriculture to apply money from funds such as Environmentally Sensitive Area schemes to solve it. It would be good to see European money being used to redress a wrong caused by headage payments under the Common sheep experienced for many Agricultural Policy.

Traditional management techniques which are good for red grouse are much better for other species than over-grazing by sheep or red deer or, heaven forfend, the swamping of the hills with a dense mass of exotic

#### BSE inquiry

grouse for the guns.

Blame the sheep

tection they increased, the red

Sir. You report (10 November) that the Minister of Agriculture is considering demands for a public inquiry into links between BSE in cattle and CID in humans. Although the Government may have changed, the members of Whitehall who were involved with the BSE blunders have not. We simply must find out what happened with BSE.

Why was no calculated risk assessment carried out? How were people picked as advisers who knew little about the science of the disease? Why was

Post letters to Letters to the Editor and include a daytime telephone number. Fax 0171 293 2056; e-mail: letters@independent.co.uk E-mail correspondents are asked to give a postal address. Letters may be edited for length and clarity.

Authority, for instance, may be inadequate. It will not be able to subpoena witnesses. Dr STEPHEN DEALLER Consultant Medical Microbiologist

#### Smoking in US

**Burnley General Hospital** 

Sir. I was born and raised in America, and I have never seen this "American-style" smoking ban in any of our bars (letter, 14 November). I do know that a ban was tried in Toronto in restaurants and was a complete flop. Most of our restaurants have no-smoking areas, but I have never seen a restaurant that you could not smoke in. MICHAEL S MAXSON Toledo, Ohio, USA

#### Church 'destruction'

Sir: The passion for church reordering in Surrey, so accurately described by Colin Wheeler ("Vicars, town elders, busy-bodies", 13 November), has also infected St John's in Egham.

It is an unusual Georgian church containing the history of the town accumulated by generations of Egham churchgoets. The current parochial church council intends to strip out all that is not "original" - including altar, pulpit and pews - and reorder to create a modern worship venue. Some of the items for disposal are gifts, including oak doors commemorating the Queen's coronation.

It fills me with sadness that this generation at St John's will be remembered for destruction; their contribution to the church - carpet tiles. ALICE CHRISTIE Egham, Surrey

Sir: Colin Wheeler's rant suggests that providing old churches with toilets, kitchens, meeting rooms and creche facilities is vandalism. Am I then to assume that he lives in a medieval house with rushes on the floor, an outside earth closet, no running water, and an open fire for heating?

The Rev EDWARD PROBERT Sutton, Surrey

#### Bank on it

Sir: So "the Bank of England's Inflation Report provides official confirmation... that interest rates might have to rise again" and "a sharp fall in growth next year [is] very likely," but the good news is that "the fall in the number of unemployment claimants... in October was the smallest for a year and a half" ("Bank reports better inflation outlook", 13 No-

vember). If this is the price of Bank of England control of interest rates and 2.5 per cent inflation many of us with big mortgages on small houses and a social conscience may think it high indeed - and dread the prospect of an even more remote European Central Bank with an even more draconian attitude to inflation. God forbid, but Gordon Brown may yet make a Tory of mc.

MARTIN WILLCOX Sheffield

#### Honest bomber

Sir: Why is Taki being credited with the insight that Guy Fawkes was "the only person ever to have entered Parliament with sincere convictions" (Quote Unquote, 8 November)? I first encountered this idea on a poster some 30 years ago, although then it was Fawkes's "honest intentions" which were being lauded. The poster was usually displayed alongside another which said, Whoever you voted for, the Government got in". The truth of this seems increasingly clear day by day. WILLIAM SCOTT Semington, Wiltshire

## LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

who thought up "surfing" the Internet? This enticing simile has probably wasted more and the Great Wall of China

With the suggestion of exspeed, the word surfing has an endlessly unsatisfying and and nothing is what you hoped for.

Surfing is precisely what doesn't happen to you (all happens is that you clamber rounged by booking adverswallowed hours. Surfing?

As a colleague put it to the ultimate disappointing sented and enticing wrapping paper in which nestles, at the end, a pair of socks. I feel just the same about the GQ-type magazines. They look so nothing there. All crunch, no

All of which was sparked Net at home, and a piece by people reading. The Net is, as we reported earlier, basically kept alive by people tapping in "ses" and "porn", as well as "Diana" and a reladuced a book with a swastika on the front called to conflate them. Sorry. "Golfing for Cats" on the basis that someone had told

The best propaganda can him the only things that sold be a single word. Who was it were Nazis, cats and golf. For newspapers, all this

remains true. Those brightly coloured bits that go around human hours than were the masthead of most papers expended on the Pyramids (though not currently us) are basically very simple and, of course, to lesser come-ons. They say: sex, booze, films, cheap, sex, violence ... and so on. We do hilarating power, control and something not dissimilar in our little panel below the lured hundreds of thousands masthead. The evidence is of impressionable folk into that these little come-ons work, sending subliminal torpid virtual purgatory, messages even to people where nothing happens fast who think they only buy a newspaper to discover the latest stage of negotiations between the Austrian finance ministry and the

right, me) on the Net. What Armenian Refugee Alliance. But at least with a broadin ungainly fashion on to your sheet you only have to turn keyboard, wobble optimisti- a page to discover whether cally and promptly fall off there is substance as well as again into a blurred cold packaging, and you don't wash of cyberscurf, sur- have to wait to connect. that's one tising wrappers and wasted. Another was well put by one of the founders of this paper, who once pointed out that if we only used computers and me this week, the Net is like someone came along offering to cram the important Christmas present: layers information and controversy and layers of gaudily pre- into an easily portable, readable and foldable form (eg. a newspaper) they would be hailed as a brilliant technological innovator.

bright, so enticing ... and yet. Enough smug editor - ed. in the end, there's almost Some hideous journalistic mistakes are repeated seasonally, and seem worse each time. You don't want or need off by two events: joining the to know about the picture library calling up the image. Miles Kington vesterday, which wasn't seen on screen, which began with the and accordingly checked, thought that the words and all those other plausible "Princess Diana" will keep excuses ... but yes, the old Nye Bevan/Ernest Bevin howler appeared on page 11 of yesterday's Eye. Both Labour heroes were great men but they were, I can contively small number of other firm, different great men, and hot-button words. For there remain so, however many are others. Alan Coren pro- youthful sub-editors on national newspapers try tidily

## QUOTE UNQUOTE

What we did was indefensible in moral terms - Sir Christopher Bell, O-ford University's farmer chief funding negotiator, on how Oxbridge autwitted civil servants to obtain extra money

Does it [Judge Zobel's ruling] say that you can kill a baby and that your youth and inexperience with cranky babies counts for more than a child's life? - Deborah Eappen

"Tell me, have you ever done any television?" - The Queen's reported remark to Terry Wogan at Broadcasting House.

Brazil have had Biggs for 27 years. They can keep him as far as I'm concerned - Malcoim Fewtrell, former head of Buckinghamshire (ID)

Have we slain one dragon only to have another take its place, with a red rose in its mouth? - Martin Bell, to Tony Blair If men and women are equal intellectually they should be

treated equally. Betty Boothroyd, Commons Speaker, on why she opposes positive discrimination in the Labour Party I smoked 25 cannabis joints every day - George Michael on his response to the death of a close male friend

حكذا من الاحل

V. V. ... · 🚖 ... 1257 3 - 22

. . . . . i de la · • /9 · .a., Jake Care 8275 **a** And The Real Property Karaga janggar 17.34 Harry Carlotte Comment The state of the s

٠٠٠ پا<u>ت</u>

1.2

AAA

.....

•

A) A) Services High A STATE OF THE STA 1111 زا 7.7.6

The state of the s The state of the s And the second The state of the s The same of the sa The second second KM The second second

100 mg The state of the s PRE ASSET THE ENGINE

A STATE OF THE PARTY OF THE PAR

## She promised him a rose garden - then she changed her mind



#### DAVID **AARONOVITCH** A CAUTIONARY TALE

The pictures tell the tale. At the top the large photograph is of a bosky dell - an acre or so of pretty trees and rose bushes. Forget-menots and poppies sprinkle the flower beds, and the sun filters through the leaves and catches the daisies on the lawn. This is the inheritance; the cottage gardens in Crowthorne, Berkshire, of Mrs Gertrude Parker who died in 1995. And very nice they are.

Below this vision of limited Paradise, are the pictures of the dramatis personae in the court case that ended this week. In the middle the last, blurry image of Mrs Parker herself, in her mid-eighties, her face gaunt and her mouth open in that tremulous "who are you?" expression of extreme old age. On her left is a man of 60 or so - the first contender for Gertrude's worldly goods and gardens. Looking pained, Mr Bob Taylor - Mrs Parker's faithful gardener for many years - has just lost his two-year case claiming that Mrs Parker's true intention had been that he should inherit the bungalow and grounds.

On Gertrude's right is a very different face. A happy Hyacinth smiles out plumply at us, a woman in secure possession of that which is rightly hers. It is Mrs Margaret Bosher (ominously Dickensian name for a windfall inheritor), who also helped Mrs Parker in her last years, and to whom all was left.

The story is not complicated. Every day, charge, in the garden, reminding himself (as he had twice been told) that one day, all this would be his. As Mrs Parker declined, his distress must have been somewhat alleviated by the knowledge of the gratitude she felt towards him, and the manner in which that gratitude was to be shown.

The years went by. Mrs Parker, for long hedridden, eventually died, and Mr Taylor prepared to come into his inheritance. Only then did he discover the terrible truth: Mrs Bosher had got the lot. At some point in the past

couple of years, unbeknownst to him, old Gertrude had changed her will. Mr Taylor argued in court that he had an implied contract with the dead woman, spent £50,000 of his own savings on the case, and lost it. On Wednesday, the day of his defeat, a jubilant (if tactless) Mrs Bosher commented that she was "delighted that Mrs Parker had got her wishes. Norman [Mr Bosher] and I are both keen gardeners and we are looking forward to having a much bigger garden."

Now, let's wind back two years and picture the scene in Mrs Parker's last few days on earth. She is slipping. And she is surrounded by men and women who stand to benefit (or think they do) from her death. What does she imagine their emotions to be, if she imagines anything at all? Regret? Anxiety? Impatience? Or has she all along made the calculation that the only way a lonely widow without family can be sure of care and attention is if she allows it to be believed that kindness need not be its own re-

If so, then there is some sort of contract there (though not one enforceable by law), which makes the expectations of the potential inheritors less, shall we say, ignoble. Though it has to be said that if Mrs Bosher was aware of (a) Mrs Taylor's belief in what was coming his way, and (b) the true state of Mrs Parker's intentions, then her demeanour in the last, long days of Gertrude's life would have made a study in suppressed emotions.

It's all hopeless, of course, and no less so within families. The trouble with the word inheritance, is that it implies a natural order of things; you inherit your parents' characteristics, their genes. It is therefore somehow your

"right" that you should inherit their wealth, or a portion of it. Actually it is no such thing. Rather, it is repugnant and pernicious (two words that I have not used since I stopped writing editorials). Repugnant because it cannot be healthy for a son or daughter to have a vested interest in the death of a parent. Especially in these days when extended life expectancy can mean the rapid disappearance of a patrimony into musing charges (or round-the-world cruises). Pernicious because, insofar as you do inherit anything, it is not anything that you yourself have deserved or striven for. How extraordinary it seems to me, that people who can talk about the dependency culture on the one hand, can also advocate reducing inheritance tax on the other.

Ah, but I am looking at it too much from the point of view of the inheritor, am I not? What about the entirely natural wish of the leaver to pass something on? Well, let us anatomise this feeling. Part of it is, I think, a the dead Joneses. Celestially one will point at the Jaguar in one's son's driveway. Yet another part is an improper desire to engineer a future in which one will not take part. This is particularly evident in those conditions that some add to their wills. It can never work.

So would we really lose anything (and might we not gain much) were we to, say, impose 100 per cent tax on all inheritance beyond one sofa and the family photos? Had this been the law two years ago, Mr Taylor would be a much happier man today.

## Black angels? It's a hope in heaven



#### TREVOR **PHILLIPS** ON CELESTIAL **PREJUDICE**

Maybe Heaven is a happy haven of multiracialism where angels of all colours join hands to sing Her praise; maybe the celestial hosts can move effortlessly medieval plainsong, to baroque anthems into a wild jazz-funk groove. There will, of course be a place for gospel, and I know that there's a special seat in the choir reserved for the Queen of Soul, Aretha, when she decides to move on from this earthly gig.

However, if you paused to take a look at the bundles of junk mail tumbling through your letterbox, amongst the offers of Christmas cards, of special gifts and of charitable emblems, you'll notice one glaring omission. Whatever colours the people come in, the angels all seem to come from Scandinavia blande, blue-eyed, rosy-cheeked cherubs, and resolutely Teutonic seraphim. Why can't an angel be

black? It's not a trivial question. The most important festival in the year for most British families of all kinds is meant to be an "inclusive" celebration. It is above all, a festival for children. So how can we exclude some children from that joyous moment? It's a question raised charmingly, but sharply, by the children's author Mary Hoffman in her new book, An Angel Just Like Me. Her first book, Amazing Grace, a story about a little girl (who it hapmore than a million and a half copies since 1991.

An Angel Just Like Me concerns a child who wants an angel that looks like him. The fact that he can't find one reflects reality. The book's publisher, Frances Lincoln, rang all the major retailers; she discovered that not a single one stocked a black angel, or cards showing a black angel. To their credit, the top people's store Harrods has pledged itself to do so

next year. Sainsbury's Home Base and Littlewoods may follow suit if encouraged by demand, so you now know what to do when you're buying your decorations. But most other large suppliers have simply ignored the issue.

It may be hard for white people to grasp the awfulness of this. Most people think that the worst effects of prejudice are associated with gross discrimination. Appalling as these are, it is the millions of everyday humiliations and slights that leave the deepest wounds on the psyche.

Take a teenager looking for make-up. There are specialist suppliers for African or Asian complexions. But if you do not live in an area where these relatively small shops supply a large number of black clients, the make-up counter doesn't have the first idea what to do with

you. So unless all black or Asian people choose to live in ghettoes, the sort of everyday item everyone else takes for granted becomes a major shopping expedition; and if you don't live in the ghetto, you can look forward to being reminded every day that you aren't quite the same as everyone else.

Don't get me wrong. This is not an appeal for enforced quotas in department stores selves some commercial good with a more sensitive purchasing policy). I'm not proposing that the Commission for Racial Equality should investigate Heaven; I'm sure that the Almighty has an equal opportunities policy second to none. However, it does seem a bit puzzling that, though we can now get hold of black Santas, black Jesus, Marys and Josephs, we can only find white angels.

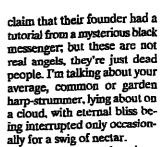
It should really be the oth-

er way around. We know that St Nick was definitely a Northern European of some kind: you don't see too many reindeer in the tropics. We've recently heard that Joseph may not have been a carpenter after all, but a rather posh furniture salesman; however, there's no doubt where he came from the Middle East.

Even in the Caribbean, they still put up holly, mistletoe and Noel. It makes sense; most of the Christmas icons have their origins in some real person, animal or plant.

That's what makes the angel so unique. Unless Independent readers can offer some stupendous revelation, I know of no one who can claim to have seen an angel. Yes, I know that the Mormons reckon that some of their elders show up from time to time, and some of the Nation of Islam

Delray Lindo in 'A Life Less Ordinary': the only black angel we could find at short notice



No one knows what these beings are really like, because even if they show up on earth, usually in Hollywood, they always look like people - usually Audrey Hepburn, John Travolta, Warren Beatty, or occasionally Denzel Washington (well, wouldn't you if you had the choice?). But for the most part, when we see angels in their natural state, they always look the same: white. dressed in white. The angel represents something special in most cultures. Principally he or she appears as a messenger from the Almighty - but there's something deeper here.

The angel is in some way related to humankind, with our shape and our appetites. But angels lack our faults and our weaknesses; no spots, blemishes, physical imperfections, not even the problems associated with gender. In practice, therefore, the representation of the angel should simply be the person each of us would like to be in our dreams. So do the manufacturers of Christmas cards and decorations truly believe that we'd all really like to look like Rutger Hauer? You must be joking.

I think that they, like many others, haven't yet woken up to the reality of a world in which most Christians are not Europeans - they are African, South American, and Asian. Even here in the UK, the fastestthe evangelical movement which take their tone, style and much of their membership from the black communities. What is still nominally a Christian festival might just take account of that fact. I wonder, by the way, why we haven't heard anything on this matter from the Established Church? Or do they need a blast from Gabriel's horn (he's been taking lessons from Louis Armstrong, I hope) to wake them up?

## Life's a gamble, it's true. But the real risks are not the ones you fear



#### RICHARD D **NORTH** ON THE RISK SOCIETY

Do you lose sleep about them? Is your experience of our fagend of the century one of nervousness at the new dangers which surround us? According to The Politics of Risk Society, published this week, if you are a real modern you will be well aware that there is something new and important about the hazards of life.

The new idea of danger is to the modern age what sex was to the last fin de siècle: a familiar enough subject re-invented as a special worry. This time, however, the concern is concern itself. The authors, corralled by the left-of-centre think-tank IPPR, are not on a mission of old-fashioned alarmism. They say that the new riskiness may be redeemed by a new and fascinating response.

The phrase "risk society" was invented by a sociologist. Ulrich Beck, who is based in Munich and Cardiff. He asserts that the BSE scare, for example, demonstrates that "society has become a laboratory where there is absolutely no one in charge. An experiment has

been inflicted on us by the beef industries." For beef, you might as well read "nuclear", "chemical", and "bio-engineering". You will easily get the flavour of the adventure: "We no longer choose to take risks, we have them thrust upon us." Conventional politics and bureaucracies are failing us: they are, Beck says, quoting Hannah Arendt, "forms of organised irresponsibility". They alternate between denial and cover-up. Another contributor, An-

thony Giddens (director of the LSE), writes in a vein less Continental and more continent. Giddens stresses that the new risks are not natural, but essentially manufactured. Thus, they force us to rethink industrial society. He notes that modern societies aren't more risky than previous ones, and may even be less so. It is just as well he says this, since we now expect to live relatively painlessly for a very long time, and indeed our longevity is arguably the greatest threat 10 our

Giddens argues what is surely true: nowadays we are thinking more about risk. At least, we are invited to. We are in receipt of a mountain of surveys and studies which try to pin causes to effects. Butter, wine, nuclear power, sexual promiscuity, car-driving and BSE are discussed for their relation to beart disease, leukaemia, Aids, global warming and CJD. Blame is chased everywhere, and is found to be clusive, even by those personal injury lawyers who hope to find it in the welllined pockets of culpable capi-

talists and their insurers. In the new view, the most important new feature of risks is the nature of their uncer-



tainty. They are not uncertain as cuddly old earthquakes or volcanoes are, say, as to timing. They are often uncertain as to their very existence and likelihood. Some are wholly unexpected. We have, of course, plenty to worry about: we might release a super-bug which might flourish in the globallywarmed fields of a Sussex countryside rendered uninhabitable by an explosion in a French nuclear power station. More prosaically, we are in daily contact with hundreds of thousands of manmade substances all of whose effects we cannot know.

But do these risks offer large scope for the organisers of concern? Not really. As against the IPPR account of risks, I prefer the painstaking accounts of hazards offered in a collection published under the banner of the European Science and Environment Forum, by Roger Bate, the director of the environment unit of the

right-of-centre think-tank the IEA. His What Risks? doesn't underestimate the difficulties science has in tracking down the hazard posed by industrial technologies when things go wrong, or by their inadvertancies. But it points to many successes in demystification, and these accounts of scientific detective work leave one with the impression that governments are far more likely to over-react, and to be over-cautious in their regulation, than the washed-up. secretive, pseudo-democrats of the IPPR's imaginings.

The Politics of Risk Society thinking uses the authors' anxicty about our anxieties to propose and celebrate the emergence of post-political nonsystems for the perception and mediation of hazards. These are epitomised by Susie Orbach, who thinks some new self-confidence is needed in people who now face uncertainties at work and "the collapse of the health and education services". Perhaps she hasn't noticed that people get livings, education and doctoring more easily than ever in history.

The modern situation is the opposite of hood-winked innocents being duped by scientists and manipulated by politicians. We all know just enough to expect scientists to explain their thinking to us. We are just autonomous enough to demand that politicians give us something other than reassurance.

worry-professionals, noting that this is true, says society is engaged in "locating and relojust hopes we look in the right mocratic processes. He perhaps government remains the leathery benches of Parliament

Robin Grove-White, one of

the most thoughtful of the new cating trust and mistrust". One places. Professor Giddens, at least, appears to: he stresses the continuing need for formal desenses that the location of good

rather than the post-modern couches of therapists. The IPPR crew are right to see that we need to develop new ways of understanding public concerns, prioritising them,

and informing the political process of them. But we needn't go to the other extreme of imagining our old, formal processes, or old ideas of rational investigation, don't deserve our trust any more. The fact is, the modern age has shown us that we have big consumer demands and satisfying them requires tricky technologies whose risks are not always clear in advance. Population growth imbues the process with moral purpose. Naturally, there is unease. But we mostly face these new hazards with surprising equanimity, and as the unsurprising price of affluence. Indeed, there is, after an unprecedented period of stability, peace and prosperity, rather more ennui than anxiety about. Our expectation of safety has simultaneously made us rather petulant when things go wrong, whilst seeking adventure holidays as a relief from the way things mostly go right.

So we need to be sceptical of the wilder claims of a new generation of lawyers, therapists, academics, campaigners and good old puritage who affect to worry about out worrying: after all, it provides them good material for lawsuits. counselling, studies, fundraising and breast-beating.

The Politics of Risk Society' published by Polity Press, in association with IPPR, £12.95 paperback, £39.50 hardback. What Risk?' published by Butterworth-Heinemann, £30 hard-



I enclose a cheque/PO (payable to YOC) or debit my Access/Visa

Card No.

for the amount of £ \_\_\_\_\_Card expiry date \_\_\_\_/

Please send the Welcome Pack to me 🔲 to the new

The charity that takes action for wild birds and the ext

memberts) . Send to: YOC, RSPB, FREEPOST, The Lodge,

Sandy, Bedfordshire SG19 2BR, Registered charity no 207076.

Cardholder's signature \_\_\_

My name Mr/Mrs/Ms.

Anne Strachan Robertson, archaeologist, numismatist and writer: born Glasgow 3 May 1910; FSA 1958; Reader in Roman Archaeology,

Glasgow University 1964-74, Titular Professor of Roman Archaeology 1974-75; Keeper of Cultural Collections and of the Hunter Coin Cabinet, Hunterian Museum 1964-74; FRSE 1975; died Glasgow 4 October 1997.

Anne Robertson was a living link with the pioneers of archaeological research. Her own rich contribution owed much to the influence of Sir George Macdonald, who dominated Romano-British studies between the world wars. From him she imbibed the patience in noting details and the dispassionate weighing of evidence that Macdonald had so admired in Francis Haverfield. an earlier giant in the field. With this inheritance, allied to her own perimacity, it is not surprising that she achieved such eminence.

She was best known as a numismatist and Keeper of the Hunterian Coin Cabinet at Glasgow University, winning international recognition with the publication in 1960 of the Sylloge of Anglo-Saxon Coins in the Glasgow collections, and becoming Medallist of the Royal Numismatic Society four years later. Between 1962 and 1982 she produced the five-volume Catalogue of Roman Imperial Coins in the Hunterian Coin Cabinet. the greatest single monument to her life's work, but the fruit of her researches is also evident in numerous occasional papers and meticulous, site-specific coin reports prepared for colleagues' publications.

Yet Robertson was no armchair archaeologist: from 1937 her interest in Roman Scotland led her to excavation, and for

several years she was the only professional actively engaged in fieldwork on monuments of the period. From exploratory work at Castledykes fort, near Carstairs, she turned to the Antonine Wall, the turf-built Roman frontier on the Forth-Clyde isthmus. It was with this internationally important monument that she was identified for the rest of her working life, presiding over its artefactual remains in the Hunterian Museum, and initiating in 1960 the classic guide book The Antonine Wall, subsequently reprinted and revised, but

never superseded. The daughter of two Glasgow teachers, she was educated at Hillhead High School and Glasgow School for Girls. At Glasgow University she was deeply impressed by S.N. Miller's teaching of Roman History, and in 1930 won the Cowan Medal, and the approval of Sir George Macdonald, then Honorary Keeper of the Hunterian Coin Cabinet. After a period in London, where she studied archaeology and gained invaluable experience in the Coin Room of the British Museum, she returned to Glasgow University as the Dalrymple Lecturer in

Archaeology. In 1952 she became Under-Keeper of the Hunterian Museum and Curator of the Hunter Coin Cabinet. In 1964 she was promoted to a Readership and appointed Keeper of the Cultural Collections, being awarded a DLitt in 1965. A year before her retirement in 1975, she was made titular Professor of Archaeology and elected Fellow of the Royal Society of Edinburgh, one of the first archaeologists to be so honoured. She was by then already a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland, and of London, as well as of the Royal Numismatic Society. It was

however with the Glasgow Ar-

British country music fans of a

chaeological Society that she was most closely associated; by happy coincidence she was the society's president during the celebrations of its centenary in 1957, and in 1976 the ment bers further expressed their affection by electing her to an Honorary Membership.

in addition to her academic attainments, Robertson will be widely remembered for her energetic promotion of archaeology. She believed ardently in the professional's obligation to involve and inform the general public, and not only by writing or lecturing. A good part of this outreach she achieved through training excavations where people from many walks of life, but particularly undergraduates from other disciplines, were given a grounding in archaeological fieldwork. Much of this (for example, the excavations at the Roman forts of Birrens and Cardean) was undertaken under the auspices of the Scottish Field School, of which she was a for long time the Honorary Secretary and Director.

It is an indication of the value of this work that so many of her "pupils" went on to participate actively in the wider fields of archaeology, taking with them memories of excavations run on vastly different lines from those of their modern counterparts - church attendance on Sunday mornings, and a ritual avoidance of hostelries being only two of the differentiating characteristics.

As befitted Robertson's somewhat reserved demeanour, the regime was formal, and this formality even professional colleagues encountered from time to time. Yet beneath there lay a generosity of spirit that showed itself more clearly in action: in unstinting help and encouragement for those at the beginning of their careers; or the work in aid of wider appreciation of archaeology as ev-



tson at the Hunterian Museum, 1974 Photograph: The Herald

commenting on the ebb and

flow of archaeological fashion.

more often turning to a gentle

self-deprecation; most trea-

sured among these autumnal

tints were her disquisition on

the Sheer Cussedness factor in

archaeology (her suggested al-

ternative interpretation of the

*'Senatus Consultum*" marking

on Roman coins), and the de-

nunciation of the modern food-

idenced particularly by her support of the Scottish Regional Committee of the Council for British Archaeology, and most happily in the Robertson Awards for outstanding achievement; or; in a different sense, by her exploration of the use of film to record either excavations in progress or various types of field monument (the results now deposited in the national archives).

In her later years, and especially in less formal contexts,

Robertson deployed what might ness for numerical and spatial be described as a pawky sense analysis as pure metromania. of humour, sometimes wryly

Colleagues, pupils and friends will relish the memory of such strokes as highlights in an altogether more solemn portrait, composed in equal parts of respect and admiration for a life of service and scholarship - a life which, in Macdonald's lapidary encomium of Haverfield, both pointed out the way to others and made it less arduous.

- Gordon S. Maxwell

## **George Chambers**

George Michael Chambers, politician: born 4 October 1928; married (one daughter); died Port-of-Spain, Trinidad 4 November

George Chambers was always the quiet man of modern Caribbean politics. In a region where the early nationalist political leaders were often charismatic and nearly always loud and rumbustious, he was a distinctly low-key figure. This did not stop him rising from lower middle-class origins and an early position as a legal clerk to become Trinidad and Tobago's second post-independence prime minister. He succeeded the legendary Eric Williams on his death in March 1981 and held office for over five years until he was defeated in elections in December 1986.

Chambers owed his political rise to a combination of diligence and loyalty to Williams and the People's National Movement (PNM), the first major nationalist political party to be formed in Trinidad and Tobago. In the multi-ethnic politics of the twin-island state, the PNM was always Africandominated, although its leadership was necessarily leavened by some East Indian figures. Chambers first came to prominence in 1971 when, having served in cabinet as the head of a series of ministries, he was appointed by Williams as one of three deputy political leaders of the PNM, the only one of the three of African descent.

He did not seek power, but rather urged Williams to stay on in 1973 when the latter briefly and unexpectedly offered his resignation; Chambers was then secretly chosen by the party leadership as its next leader when Williams died. Chambers was the least well-known of the deputy leaders and was far from the obvious choice, but he nevertheless emerged ahead of his two East Indian colleagues, a revealing indication of how much ethnicity mattered in Trinidadian politics.

His legacy was awkward in the extreme. The oil price boom which had launched Trinidad and Tobago into a frenzy of public and private spending in the late 1970s was rinning to turn sour and elections were due. Chambers shuffled his cabinet, took on the finance portfolio himself, terminated a few extravagant projects such as a horse-racing complex, settled a number of industrial disputes, made himself accessible to the press, held consultations with the people and promised, in a persuasive slogan, that "what's wrong must be put right". Not withstanding the deep, structural problems facing the economy, it was enough to turn around the PNM's flagging political for-

ficially resounding victory in elections in November 1981. Yet the reality was that, amidst a low turn-out and significant opposition support, the

tunes and bring about a super-

PNM had won with the support of less than 30 per cent of the electorate. In retrospect, it can be seen that Chambers had been able to do no more than stave off by one term the eventual ending of the PNM's long hold on office in Trinidad and Tobago.

In any case, Chambers was no Williams. Lacking both the standing and the cumning of his predecessor, he faced a decline in the economy and a concerted opposition politics that would have tested any democratic leader. When elections were next held in late 1986, it was virtually inevitable that a tired, old and frustrated PNM, in power without interruption for the previous 30 years, would lose massively to the new National Alliance for Reconstruction (NAR) which won all but three of the 36 seats in the House of Representatives. Chambers lost his own seat and disappeared from politics.

The major external crisis which preoccupied Chambers during his time as prime minister was the revolution in neighbouring Grenada. He took a notably more conciliatory line than other Caribbean Community (Caricom) leaders in diplomatic discussions with the Grenadian leadership and at one time seemed to have come close to persuading the regime to hold elections. It also fell to him to chair the Caricom summit which met in Trinidad at the time of the revolution's collapse in October 1983 and at which other Caricom leaders concealed from their regional colleagues their intention to take part in the USled invasion.

George Chambers's subsequent statement to the Trinidad parliament made no attempt to



Chambers: casting his vote, 1986 Photograph: Popperfoto

conceal the personal offence he felt at this deception and noted that it was "regrettable that military intervention of this nature has been imported into the Commonwealth Caribbean". It was the reaction of a principled man and a fitting commentary

## Johnny Darrell



Johnny Darrell, singer and songwriter: born Liopewell, Alabama 23 July 1940; married (one daughter); died Kennesaw, Georgia 7 October 1997.

certain age will fondly remember Johnny Darrell's visit to these shores back in 1969. Appearing alongside Hank Snow, Willie Nelson and Nat Stuckey on a tour designed to coincide with the first birthday celebrations for Opry magazine, he proved himself an interesting talent with the potential perhaps to become a major crossover star. But he was unable to build upon his early success and within a few years had virtually disappeared from view.

Darrell had taught himself to play guitar whilst still in his early teens and on joining the army performed at base dances. By 1964, having left the military, he was managing a Holiday Inn motel in the Nashville area and found himself regularly dealing with people in the music business.

Keen to pursue his own interest in that field, it wasn't until the country star Bobby Barc arranged a meeting with United Artists that he got the chance to cut a record. His début disc for the label in 1965, the first recording of Curly Putman's now classic "Green. Green Grass of Home", fared poorly, becoming a country hit only when covered the same year by Porter Wagoner and an international smash when tackled by Tom Jones in 1966.

His next single, "As Long as the Wind Blows" (1966), again penned by Putman, found its

**Anniversaries** 

way into the country Top 30 and saw Darrell being named "Most Promising Male Artist" by Cash Box magazine.

His chart run continued and in 1967, by now produced by the label head and former Buddy Holly associate Bob Montgomery, his version of Mel Tillis's "Ruby, Don't Take Your Love To Town" went to the Top 10. Inspired by an incident during the Second World War. the song's reference to "this crazy Asian war" was widely believed to refer to Vietnam and, trading on that presumed association, became a huge pop hit two years later for Kenny

Rogers and the First Edition. Darrell's next single, the original version of another fu-

ture pop smash, Dallas Frazier's Mickey Newbury's "Why Have "Son of Hickory Hollow's You Been Gone So Long" and Tramp" (1968), made it only second, Billy Ed Wheeler's into the Top 25. It was followed by "With Pen In Hand", the closest Darrell came to a chart-

topper and his only single to edge its way into the US pop acteristic "Dakota the Dancing chart. After "I Ain't Buying" Bear" (1973), and a further move to Capricorn resulting in (1968) and "Woman Without Love" (1969) came a duet, "The one album and a final hit, an unsuccessful reworking of the Coming of the Roads", with the bluegrass standard "Orange underrated Anita Carter of the Biossom Special" (1975). famous Carter Family; its lowly chart placing failing to reflect its obvious quality.

Having garnered the respect of the cream of Nashville's songwriting community, Darrell next turned to two of its heaviest hitters, gaining Top 25 successes with first,

"River Bottom" (both 1969). The hits however, begin to dry up, a label switch to Mouument producing the unchar-

Diagnosed in the mid-Seventies with the diabetes which eventually would kill him, Johnny Darrell cut just one further album, in 1979 re-recording of his hits for Gusto before fading into an undeserved obscurity.

- Paul Wadey

upon his core values.

#### BIRTHS, **MARRIAGES** & DEATHS

**DEATHS** 

OWEN: Ivan Dale DL, peacefully at OWEN: Ivan Dale DL, peacefully at home on 12 November after a short illness. Beloved husband of Mauroen and father of Justin, Julian and the late Jason, Private funeral. Thanksgiving service at All Saints Church, Penarth on Saturday 13 November at Itan. Family flowers only, but if desired donations to the Army Benevolent fund, 41 Queen's Gate, London SW7 5HR or to the Architects Benevolent Society, 66 Portland Place, London Wiln 4AD.

PACE: Jean Margaret (née Stewert), peacefully at home in her 95th year, on Thursday 13 November (997, Funeral at Cambridge City Crema-torium East Chapel on Friday 21 No-vember at 2.15pm.

For Gazette BiRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS, please telephone 0171-293 2012 or fax to 0171-293 2010. Charges

are £6,50 a line (VAT extra). ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS

ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS
TODAY: Prince Beward, Thatea, The Duke
of Edibourph's Award, hosts a dianer on huard
HMY Britannia, in the Rool of London, for the
Founder Charter Members of The Duke of Edsuburgh's Award Charter for Business.
TOMORROW: Prince Edward, President, attends the Twenty-Girst Anniversor Gala performance given by the National Youth Music
Theatre at the Palace Theatre, London WI.
Princean Plangaret attends "Stars of the
Night", a Calla of Dance at Her Magasty's
Theatre, London WI, to celebrate the amajgamation of the Beneah Institute and the Royal Academy of Dancing.

Changing of the Guard
TODAN: The Household Cavalry Mounted
Regiment months the Queen's Life Guard at
Plorise Goards, 11sm; Ist Battalion The Royal Regiment of Wales mounts the Queen's
Guard, at Bueldegham Palace, 11.3hm,
lead provided by the Welch Guards. TOMORROW: The Household Cavalry Maunied Regiment mounts the Queen's Life Guard
at Horse Guards, 10nn.

#### Birthdays

TODAY: Births: William Pitt the El-TODAY: Mr Ed Asner, actor, 68; Mr der, First Earl of Chatham, states-Howard Baker, lawyer and senator, 72; Mr J.G. Ballard, science-fiction man, 1708; Georgia O'Keeffe, author, 67; Mr John M. Banfield, forpainter, 1887; Erwin Johannes Eugen Rommel, field marshal, 1891; mer chairman, Mobil Oil, 50; Mr Daniel Barenboim, pianist and con-ductor, 55; Mr Andrew Castle, ten-nis player and broadcaster, 34; Sir Aneurin Bevan, statesman, 1897; Sir Sacheverell Sitwell Bt, poet and author, 1897; Hamish Hamilton, publisher, 1900. Deaths: George Romney, portrait painter, 1802; Jean Gabin (Jean Moncorge), actor, Geoffrey Chandler, chairman, Amnesty International, Business Group, 75; Miss Petula Clark, singer 1976. On this day: Issac Pitman pub-lished his shorthand system, 1837; London was flooded when the and actress, 65; Mr André Deutsch, publisher, 80: Professor Peter Dickinson, pianist and composer, 63: Mr Martin Hammond, headmaster of Thames rose by over 28 feet, 1875; the first assembly took place of the League of Nations, 1920; Today is the Feast Day of Saints Abibus, Gurias and Samonas, St Albert the Great, St Desiderius or Didier of Co-Tonbridge School, 53; Mr John Hobhouse, former chairman, RSPCA, 87; Miss Paula Kahn, former chief ex-Group, 57; Mr Brian Low, High Commissioner to Papua New hors, St Fintan of Rheinan, St Guinea, 60: Lord Mackay of Ard-brecknish, former MP, 59: Mr David Leopold of Austria and St Malo or Machutus. TOMORROW: Births: Tiberius, Roman emperor, 42 BC; William Mr Paul Raymond, impresario, 72; The Rev Canon Eric Staples, former Frend de Morgan, artist and novel-ist, 1839; Sir Oswald Ernald Mosley. chaplain to the Queen, 87; Mr Sam Waterston, actor, 57; Sir Roger Fascist leader, 1896. Deaths: James Young, former principal, George Watson's College, Edinburgh, 74. Ferguson, astronomer, 1776; William Clark Gable, film actor, 1960; Arthur Bowden Askey, comedian, 1983. On this day: Washington was captured TOMORROW: Professor Chinua Achebe, novelist, poet and educaby British troops. 1776; the Suez Canal was formally opened at Port Suid, 1869; Today is the Feast Day of St Afan, St Agnes of Assisi, St Ed-

tionalist, 67; Mr Peter Alasworth MP, 41; Mr Michael Billington, author and broadcaster, 58; Miss Lisa Bonet, actress, 30; Mr Frank Bruno, boxer, 36; Mr Willie Carson, jockey, 55; Mr Tony de Leeuw, composer, 71; Sir lohn Hanson, Director-General, British Council, 59; Sir Colin Marshall, chairman, British Airways, 64; Miss Joanna Pettet, film actress, 53; Mr Griff Rhys Jones, actor and

vriter, 44; Sir Giles Shaw, former MP,

66; The Rev Canon Herbert Swart,

Canon Emeritus, Lincoln Cathe-

dral, 71; Sir Edward Tomkins, former

ambassador, 82; Sir Magdi Yacoub, cardiothoracic surgeon, 62; Profes-sor Michael Zander, Professor of

garet of Scotland, St Mechtildis of Helfta and St Nikon "Metanocite".

Lectures

TODAY British Museum: Rowens Loverance, "The Sutton Hoo Ship Burial".

mund of Abingdon, St Eucherius of

Lyons, St Genrude of Helita, St Mar-

TOMORROW National Portrait Gallery: Paul Webb, "Jack Hawkins", 3pm.

#### FAITH & REASON

## Confessions of a 47/52ths church-goer

Church attendance is down again. Paul Handley has a sneaking suspicion that the problem is not dull sermons, trendy vicars or women priests. It is him.

Ask me how often I go to church, and I will say, smugly, every week. Ask me where I was on the last Sunday in August, and I will say driving down the M6 on the way back from Ayr. Ask me where I was on the first Sunday in June, and I will say cleaning up the holiday cottage before the lunchtime deadline. Ask me where I was those first weekends in October, and I'll say coping with the children at home because their mother was sick. And so on. Then ask me again how often I go to church, and I'll say, probably with the same smugness, every week.

To a church statistician, that trip down the M6 and those swipes with the J-cloth mean that I cease to be a person. I become, instead, say, 47/52ths of a person; whatever I think about my presence in church, there is 10 per cent less of me. I am guilty, then, for the decline in church attendance which has featured in so many stories over the ship every week. (Interestingly, only 3

pressed air worn by so many clergymen many of the Church's spin-doctors. That estimated 21-per-cent drop in church attendance between 1980 and 2000, from 4.8 million to 3.8 million, has been taken to signify a vast exodus of disaffected churchgoers, fed up with the women priests or dull conservatism or trendy-lefty leadership or the wrong hymns, according to which newspaper you read. It's not. It's me.

All right, it is also church-goers dying and not being replaced; and people who look up in the middle of a sermon one day and say to themselves, "I don't believe any of this"; and people who now have to work on Sundays. But these are compensated for, to a degree, by children being born and brought to church; and people who discover that church communities are kind and unexploiting places to be.

The trend to attend church less frequently is a large and hitherto unmeasured factor in the overall statistical picture. Now there is support for this theory: newly uncovered figures (a respectable 3,287-strong sample in the British Social Attitudes survey) show that only 20 per cent of those who say they belong to a religion claim to woryears. I am responsible for the de- per cent say they worship fortnightly.

This is probably because, like me, few and the too-bright smiles worn by so actually intend to worship fortnightly: it just works out that way.) Another 30 per cent attend somewhere between once a month and once a year. The straightforward head-count is too blunt a method to register that the people it counts one week are not the same as they were the previous week. One church in Huddersfield has counted the different local people who have attended at some time during the past three months. The official attendance figure for that church is 63; yet over the three months the churchwardens' tally came to 159. If the Church really wants to count its constituency, it shouldn't use a Polaroid; it needs a movie camera.

One implication of this is that the Church should relax a bit more about its identity and its market penetration. Mission need not mean knocking on the doors of hostile strangers; it ought, rather, to be about finding ways to serve this large community which flows in and out of the churches, sometimes leaving its mark, often not; not asking much of the church hierarchy, because not expecting much.

Another implication, though, ought to cause the Churches more anxiety. If people feel guilty and uncomfortable about staying away from church, all is

well: the assumption that God resides in some way in the institutional Church, and perhaps in the church buildings, remains intact. But if people are choosing whether or not to go to church, and don't mind, then either their consciences are dulled (a possibility) or God is with them and doesn't mind either. In some ways it is easier for the

Churches to believe that they look out of their heavy wooden doors at a world of spiritual ignorance and suspicion. If, on the other hand, the non-attenders are all-too-familiar with what the Church is like, and are making an informed and intelligent choice not to go too often, this is far more of a challenge. After all, if you had a choice, would you join an institution where, just in the past week, one group has threatened to break away because of the prospect of women bishops; another group has threatened the same thing over homosexuals; and the officials coordinating the resumption of talks between Methodists and Anglicans have admitted that there's no point in thinking about unity for the foreseeable future? The surprising thing about these new figures is not that so many people go to church; it's that they should

'Faith & Reason' is edited by Paul Vallely

## Lonrho loses its glister as the price of gold dives

MARKET REPORT



DEREK PAIN

The slump in the price of Lonrho's deeper South for metals has also hit other boardroom shake-up at Manchester insurance group gold is having a devastating African involvement is already producers such as RioTinto impact on the shares of Lon- a protracted affair. If the deal rho, the international trading is completed it will created the group once dominated by Tiry republic's largest coal mining 90.3 points. But its advance Rowland. With the builtion around a 12-year low, the South African group, 29.9 per 86p, worst level for four years.

As the gold price has col- American. lapsed and the pound strengthened, Lonrho has found itself under intense pressure. The occurred at a time the group reshaping and involvement with South Africa's unquoted

Tavistock Colleries. Profits in the year to Sepsharply down at the interim

operation and give JCI, the through a deal with Anglo

Due diligence has been completed. According to JCi "complex finalisation arrangeclassic pincer movement has ments" are still outstanding. This could indicate haggling is out of favour with a stock over the price, with Lonrho market acutely baffled by its seeking to renegotiate the £210m indicated in early

Although Lonrho has put through a number of deals in tember last year more than its bid to become a pure minhalved to £78m. They were ing group it has still to complete several, including the sale \$1.5bn. stage and there are worries of its high-profile Princess

and Billiton.

At one time Footsie was up lacked conviction. Even before New York lost a modest early shares fell a further 4p to cent of Lonrho, largely gain the index was in retreat and by the close had to be content with a 30.8 gain to 4,741.8. headway but the FTSE Small- the rumour. The London & Cap index was pulled down as some dealers hacked at its con-

> Rolls-Royce, up 19p at 236.5p, was the best performing blue chip as the aero engine orders continued to fly in. Delta, the US airline, has selected Rolls Trent engines in a deal worth \$260m with a potential value of more than

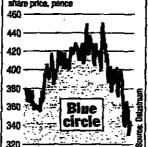
stituents.

Blue Circle Industries

Caradon, the building mate- attracted some speculative atrials group, lifted the shares tention, up 19p at 476.5p. 14.5p to 182p. It purchased 2 million shares at 179.5p.

Norwich Union, at one takeover buzz, ended 1p higher at 364.5p as, it seemed, many small shareholders The FISE 250 index made rushed to take advantage of

> Share spotlight share price, pence



Ailied Domeca, on restructuring hopes, climbed 21p to 522p, and Bass was 19.5p time up 16.75p on another higher at 861.5p. Goldman Sachs suggest the shares are "significantly undervalued".

The US securities house says: "Investors looking for havens of value have a lot to go for. Our analysts suggests that Bass' balance sheet is significantly under-representative of true asset value. We estimate up to £700m of prop- The recruitment services erty value does not appear on the balance sheet.'

Cash-rich Associated British Foods rose 22.5p to 540p on vague talk it may have identified a takeover target.

261.5p following buy advice

from a number of quarters. J Sainsbury, taking 21 analysts to the US to see its struggling Shaw's supermarket chain, rose 9,25p to 495p.

FirstBus, likely to capture Bristol Airport, advanced 9.5p to 235.5p with Stagecoach moving ahead 42p to 813.5p in support. Newcomer BCH, a vehicle

management business, motored to 202.5p from a 190p placing. Hat Pin fell 15p to 52.5p.

group gave a profit warning because of what it called "an unusually low level" of moves by advertising personnel.

The Anglesey Mining run came to a halt, with the shares Northern Foods, expected to off 3.25p to 13.25p. On Ofex produce interim profits of Crediton Minerals, on the TAKING STOCK

Advanced Power Components, which achieved the distinction of producing a profits warning just three months after arriving on the market, held at 59.5p. The shares were floated at 70p. A profit of £1.5m had been expected but stockbroker Henry Cooke Lumsden believes the company will have to settle for around £900,000 when it reports next month. For the current year Henry Cooke is looking for £1.5m. APC makes components for the integrated services digital network and should benefit from BT's plans to make a highspeed Internet service available to every bome through an ISDN upgrade.

Talk of corporate excitement at Tullow Oil is going the rounds again. The shares jumped 10p to 136p, a new

source: Bloomberg

		stage and there about the outcom ended last Septe	me for the year Hotels chain.	Blue Circle Industries gained 13p to 343p on a rumoured Cazenove push and a 320 N D J F M A		f Crediton Minerals, on the prospect of Devon gold, rose a further 3p to 26p.	jumped 10p to 136p, a new closing high. BG is one name in the frame.
· ·	Alcoholic Beverage 68 908 Aley Domaco 5 68 358 Buhase(H.P.) 78 48 Bunifere Dix 1 68 78 Bunifere Dix 1 68 78 Genorange 5 64 95 Genorange 5 64 95 Genorange 5 65 35 Bunifere Cart 5 65 35 Close Bros 6 65 36 Genral Gg 3 77 31 Houles 6 65 48 Euspeld 6 65 98 Genral Gg 3 77 31 Houles 7 65 46 Lappeld 6 65 98 Sept 6 Find 7 65 98 Sept 6 Find 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7	20.50 - 3.00 4.7 (3.5 dot) 20.100 - 3.00 4.7 (4.5 dot) 20.100 - 3.00 4.7 (4.5 dot) 20.100 - 3.00 4.5 dot) 20.100 - 3.	Che The PRECode   Flyth Low Septe   Flyth Chee   Flyth PRECode   Flyth Low Septe   Flyth Chee   Flyth PRECode   Flyth Flyth Chee   Flyth C	19	79:00x 4:100 12. 7387 28 01 Pathent out New 28.00 - 28.00 - 28.00 19.00	200 princes are in stating except where square. In 18 idented as a percensage of the state price. The 185 divided by last year's earnings per storm, excluding the 180 graph of the 180 graph of the 180 graph of 180	ng extraordinary teams but including exceptionals. elit: s Suspended: p Parely Pald; np Nii Pald: "Alff. Source: Bloomberg
Ďìr	7.75 3.31 Allamete McC. 68 387 386 388 388 388 388 389 389 389 389 389 389	275.0 - 1.00 - 1	4-150 79 52 0 197 67 Perthus M 15-50 _ 5.0 2.4 7754 4-10 42 52 31 Mg 200 Mb Reb Wissessor 202,0 _ 12 82 1604 -7.00 12 59 543 189 39 Fore Fense 100.0 _ 45 _ 267 -7.00 12 59 543 189 39 Fore & lyk 46,00 _ 45 _ 267 -5.50 12 62 467 60 407 Usigne	285 201 RGC Entry 305.00 *1.00 0.5 - 200 6 10 Alled Liss 68 021 RGC PSP 0.09 *1.00 2.5 - 200 6 22 Artaclass 68 07 RGC Selve 105.00 *1.00 1.8 - 500 10 25 78 Akton Villa 20 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10	3.55 • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •	Seaq volume: 751.4m trades 49,955  Market Leaders: Top 20 volume  Seed: Vol Seed: Vol Mercury Ass Hg. 46.2m Cay Coore Res: 2.6 Rols Royce 27.6m Seel Transp 5.6 Seed: Vol Seed: Vol Mercury Ass Hg. 46.2m Cay Coore Res: 2.6 Rols Royce 27.6m Seel Transp 5.6 Seed: Vol Rols Royce 37.6m Seed: Vol Royce 37.6m Se	Gifes Index n/a  seeck Vel Scock Vel Im Emerald Energy 10.8m Centres 8.89m Im Solchidine Seach 9.96m Set: Percelusin 8.60m Im Unyls TSB Group 9.75m Heid 7.95m Im Berran Group 9.75m Manues 7.95m Im Berran Group 9.75m Cable and Wireless 7.95m Im Selfon 9.55m Cable and Wireless 7.95m Im Selfon 9.55m Cable 20 Wireless 7.95m In Selfon Place 10 Wireless 7.95m In Sel
,	438 300 Ramadelit (H) 33 179 261 Regastellers 2 769 569 Separative 8 64 305 223 Vest Grp 2 542 805 Weldwing D 164 807 400 Veluk a Dudley 9 707 400 Veluk a Dudley 9 708 605 Young a Coh 67	8000 - 7.50 20 655, EXECTIONNES  8750x - 14 23,8 101 24 HO Acong Group  45,00 - 10,00 4.1 0,9 143 59 32 Arism  34,00 - 1,00 4.1 0,9 143 59 32 Arism  34,00 - 1,00 4.1 0,9 143 59 32 Arism  34,00 - 1,00 4.1 0,9 143 59 32 Arism  34,00 - 1,00 4.1 0,9 143 59 32 Arism  34,00 - 1,00 4.1 0,9 143 59 32 4 143 50 32 52 50 64 3 4 7 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 6 6 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1	11.00 5.3 6.7 602 103 445 Birthappathie 50.50 +7.50 _ neg 1328   10.00 6.3 6.3 608   127 96 Com (A. 155 10 A. 171 10 377	Why pay biby post who first Direct has a free bill paymer	Second	\$232 25 146 Gregoria. \$20.50 0.056 0.7200.5 27 \$757 149 9. Haain's Corp. 1859 - 27 - 57 \$757 149 9. Haain's Corp. 1859 - 27 - 57 \$759 149 159 149 149 149 249 249 249 249 249 \$759 149 149 149 149 249 249 249 249 249 249 \$759 149 149 149 149 249 249 249 249 249 249 249 249 249 2	10
1	103 73 Seen Hill 400 103 73 Seen Hill 39 104 87 Tay Horses 102 25 147 Taylor Witney 103 307 201 Tilbury Done 260	2.25	1.00 6.4 % 1.00	for 24 hour telephone based on the property of the written details of our services write to First Direct, Freepool and account for you. Calls may be monitored and/or recorded. Applicants must be 18 or ower.  Member HS.	Securation   Color	287 0 0 1 Trafficed Pt. 51.50 - 12 01 3 4 5 5 5 6 5 6 1 7 5 6 6 1 2 7 5 7 6 6 1 2 7 5 7 6 7 6 7 6 7 6 7 6 7 6 7 6 7 6 7 6	20   24   5   Universit Safe   20   50   - 63   2.3   440
	19 He Welson C 19 105  35 Bib Welson C 19 105  36 Bib Welson C 19 105  37 Bib Welson C 19 105  38 Bib	1.7 8.4 604 1.3 1.5 604 1.3 1.5 604 1.3 1.5 604 1.3 1.5 604 1.3 1.5 605 1.3 1.5 1.5 605 1.3 1.5 1.5 1.5 1.5 1.5 1.5 1.5 1.5 1.5 1.5		Section   Process	10	25   19   Aman Mana   19   19   23   3   10   10   10   10   10   10   10	8 8 2 Hollas 275
: E	67 184, Brit Vica 234.0 69 248 ETP 30.0 16 242 Canning(W) 246.5 54 272 Contents	100   100   101	27 28 567 28 67 Danielle Wests 45.50 +2.00 1.4 - 50.0 1.0 1.1 1.0 1.0 1.0 1.0 1.0 1.0 1.0	15   Subs Euler   1650   100	20	20   20   15   15   15   15   15   15   15   1	200 Ed Temport De- 104 T Utd Carriers 74.58 - 5.7 14.4 857 Watter 82 35 Anglan 75.00 - 6.00 5.6 8.4 487 105 R5 Brissel Wasse 105.00 - 4.00 5.1 9.1 300 105 R5 Brissel Wasse 105.00 - 6.00 5.6 8.4 487 105 R5 Brissel Wasse 105.00 - 6.00 5.6 8.4 487 105 R5 Brissel Wasse 105.00 - 6.00 5.6 8.4 487 105 R5 Brissel Wasse 105.00 - 6.00 5.6 8.4 487 105 R5 Brissel Wasse 105.00 - 6.00 5.6 8.4 487 105 R5 Brissel Wasse 105.00 - 6.00 5.6 8.4 487
662 177 20 43 3 3 3 3 3 3 4 3 5 4 3 5 4 3 5 4 3 5 4 3 5 4 3 5 4 5 5 4 5 5 6 4 3 5 6 4 5 6 4 5 6 4 5 6 4 5 6 4 5 6 4 5 6 4 5 6 4 5 6 4 5 6 4 5 6 6 5 6 6 5 6 6 5 6 6 5 6 6 5 6 6 5 6 6 5 6 6 5 6 6 6 6 5 6	32.5 Cooks 34.0.3 34.0.	97 149 250 153 401 153 241 153 241 154 154 154 154 154 154 154 154 154 1	20 17 12 18 18 18 18 18 18 18 18 18 18 18 18 18	Government Securities  Red Sec	0 7.10 1.0 28.4 37.7 7 9 Dayer Ease 43.0 - 2.9 - 2.9 0.0 1.0 1.0 2.8 28.5 50 1.0 1.0 1.0 1.0 1.0 1.0 1.0 1.0 1.0 1.	00 00 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 1	West

BUSINESS & CITY EDITOR, JEREMY WARNER NEWS DESK: 0171-293 2636 FAX: 0171-293 2098 E-MAIL: INDYBUSINESS@INDEPENDENT.CO.UK FINANCIAL JOURNAL OF THE YEAR

## Chairman attacks Liberty family on 'back door' tactics

The board of Liberty, the troubled retailer, yesterday attacked the company's founding family, saying its attempt to oust the group's chairman would destabilise the business and place the remaining directors in an untenable position. Denis Cassidy, chairman, said that instead of attempting a 'back door takeover', the family should make a formal bid or back off. Nigel Cope, City Correspondent, reports on a bitter battle.

Launching an offensive against the Stewart-Liberty family and the rebel shareholder. Bryan Myerson, Mr Cassidy said their behaviour was wholly inappropriate for a public company. "It's shareholders behaving badly," he said. "If they want to run it as a family business then they should make an offer to all shareholders. But what we have is a couple of shareholders behaving as if this is a private company of which they are proprietors."

He accused the family and Mr Myerson of forming an "unlikely and short term alliance" to gain control of the business without paying a premium. Mr Cassidy said that if the family successfully ousted him as chairman and replaced him with Mr Myerson and Odile Griffith, the family's financial representative, then the rest of the board would be placed in an untenable position. "Presumably they too may also be threatened with removal," Mr Cassidy said. In a circular sent to shareholders yesterday, the board said the family's plans would threaten the strategy of the company at a crucial time. It said Liberty's entire set of advisers would resign if Mr Cassidy was ousted. In addition to Cazenove, these include Barings, its financial advisers, and

Slaughter and May, its lawyers. It also said that Barclays would reconsider its position regarding the £40m redevelopment of the flagship Regent Street store if the family's plans to remove Mr Cas-

The family rejected the board's accusations as "nonsense". Ms Griffith said it would make no difference if all the group's advisers resigned as replacements could easily be found. She also said that the family were quite happy to work with the remainder of the board and that the family had written to them to that effect. "We are not intending to appoint a lot of patsies to the board that will take instructions from us," Ms Griffith said.

She said the family had decided to remove Mr Cassidy because they did not support his plans to spend £43m on redeveloping the Regent Street store. "We accept that the store needs improvement with air conditioning and escalators but we do not believe that £43m is appropriate."

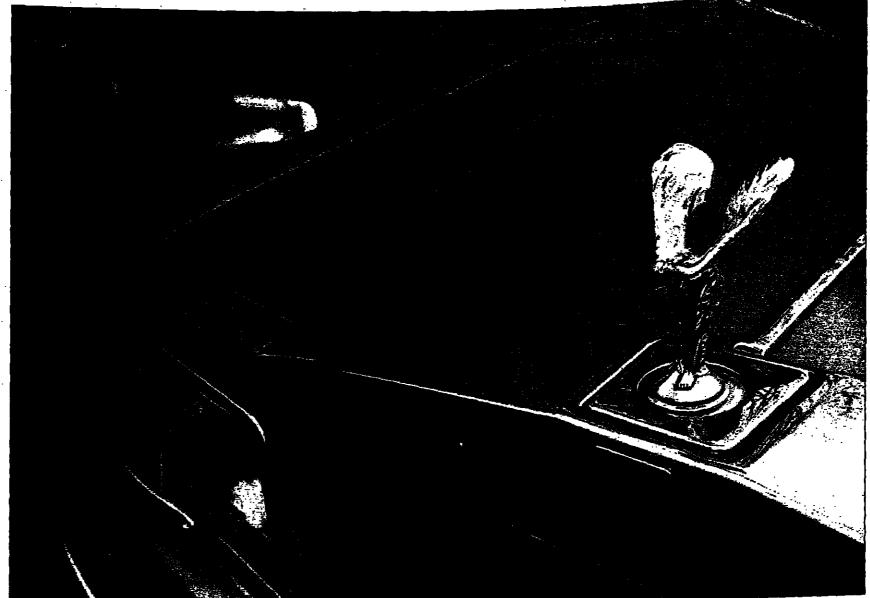
The board will now try to win enough support to defeat the resolution to remove Mr Cassidy at the emergency meeting which has been set for 11 December. This will be difficult as the family and Mr Myerson control 44 per cent of the shares hetween them

The board will start talking to institutional investors immediately. They control 23 per cent of the shares while the extended Stewart-Liberty family controls an additional 27 per cent. The family is also set to lobby for additional support and will send out its response to the board's circular

Mr Cassidy was in reflective mood yesterday on his decision to join Liberty in the first place, "I turned the job down on a number of occasions before accepting it. I do not regret coming in because it is a lovely business with a good team. It just needs a little push. But if I'm herded off then I will regret having wasted two and a half years of my life."

He also warned that if he was ousted "it would be a savage blow to small businesses which seek to recruit professional

The Liberty board, which put the 120year-old business up for sale earlier this month, said it had received several expressions of interest both from UK and overseas groups. The company is currently valued at £85m at yesterday's share price of 375p, down 20p yesterday.



Moves to merge marques: VW's intervention turns the battle for ownership of Rolls into an auction between as many as seven big foreign car groups

jobs with

RJB Mining, the embattled

owner of the English coalfields,

yesterday secured a deal to

preserve colliery jobs after

Eastern agreed to buy at least

12 million tonnes of coal over

with a 10 per cent market share,

has agreed to buy 4 million

from next April with an option

to continue the agreement for

Eastern, Britain's fourth

the next three years.

a further two years.

supplied with by RJB.

fossil fuel generators.

electricity generation.

needs to tie down deals cover-

Eastern and RJB declined to

comment on the price they had

agreed but one report suggest-

ed the deal was worth £600m

over five years. Charles Kernot,

the Paribas analyst, said: "It's a

jolly good price ... not a bad

due to be delivered to the Pres-

ident of the Board of Trade

Margaret Beckett next Friday.

- Michael Harrison

#### Volkswagen joins bidders for Rolls-Royce cars

The prospects of the Rolls-Royce luxury car maker remaining in British hands all but disappeared yesterday after Volkswagen of Germany threw its hat in the ring. VW's intervention turns the battle for ownership of Rolls into an auction between as many as seven big car groups, all of them foreign.

Reports from Germany yesterday suggested that VW had already made a bid and had all but won the contest. But a spokesman for parent company Vickers, which put Rolls up for sale three weeks ago, dismissed this as "nonsense".

BMW of German has already confirmed that it is interested in buying Rolls and, despite a denial yesterday, Daimler-Benz is also thought to be contemplating a bid.

All three main US car groups - General Motors, Ford and Chrysler - are believed to be eyeing Rolls although, again, GM yesterday denied it was interested. The other possible bidder is Fiat of Italy, which owns Ferrari and Alfa Romeo.

Industry observers said they doubted whether any British bid would now emerge following the collapse of the planned £1bn hostile bid for Vickers by the car components and engineering group Mayflower.

It was pointed out that only large car companies with deep pockets and specialist knowledge of the business were likely to bid. Since BMW bought Rover three years ago, Britain no longer has a UKowned volume car maker.

Analysts estimates of Rolls' value range from £250m to £600m. It is reckoned to make profits of about £21m a year. But any buyer would probably have to invest a further £500m to renew the model range.

German press reports said that VW had made an informal offer that was likely to be accepted. But a Vickers spokesman said: "The deal is not done, that is wrong. The timetable goes well into next year and the deal may not be done until the spring."

He also pointed out that Lazards. Vickers financial advisers, had not yet sent out the Memorandum of Sale to interested parties and was still in the process of registering expressions of interest.

Another observer said: "There is a peculiar German dynamic to all this. BMW VW and Daimler delight in tweaking each other's tails. In particular, VW likes the idea of taking the battle on to BMW's forecourts." BMW has been approached by a dozen wealthy Rolls owners asking to be included in any bid it decides to make.

- Michael Harrison

Brown to

code for fi

gently have the

per vo

...

Accounta

## Tax policy on directors' pensions challenged

The Inland Revenue is facing a legal challenge over a new practice of imposing a 40 per cent tax charge on lump sum pension payments made to directors who retire early but continue to work for the company. Separately, pension actuaries warned interest rates under EMU would be driven up unless Europe's trillionpound pension liabilities were addressed. Andrew Verity reports.

The pensions industry is preparing to seek a judicial review over the Inland Revenue's practice of taxing lump-sums

free. The practice, which the industry believes is part of the Government's "spend-to-save" clampdown on tax loopholes, has led to many directors of small companies paying unexpected six-figure sums in tax.

The Revenue's Pension Schemes Office is targeting directors who retire and draw pension benefits, but stay on the board in a reduced role - usually as a non-executive director or as a consultant.

breaks rules that bar people from working once they have drawn their pension benefits from company schemes. It is applying the practice even to unpaid, non-executive direc-

The Association of Pensioner Trustees, which represents trustees of small company pension schemes, is preparing to mount a legal challenge over

what it claims is an un-announced change of practice.

Further, the Revenue has told the APT that the practice is universal and could apply to any member of an occupational pension scheme who retires early but then resumes working for the same employer. Potentially, any employee who, after drawing a tax-free lump sum, stays on the pay-roll could be hit with a retrospective tax charge.

The APT says that while the The Revenue claims this practice is universal, it is also targeting directors of small on the board purely to hand over the reigns to successors. In one example, a director

of a packaging business, who asked not to be named, retired in 1992 with a lump sum payment of more than £400,000. He had remained on the board while the company was being

wound-down, Adrian Wadding ham, of actuaries Barnett Waddingham, said: "I have complained to the Revenue that the only cases that have been brought to my attention are controlling directors. But the Revenue has told me this

does apply to larger companies.

There are countless examples

of directors retiring early but

resuming work for their edu-

working for them later." While the Revenue insists it has not changed its practice, the Inland Revenue claims the rules are by no means universally applied. Gillian Shepherd. the former education minister, companies, many of whom stay said when still in government that she "had no objection" to teachers retiring early and then

> cation authority. Lump sums have remained tax-free. In a separate development, the Association of Consulting Actuaries warned that interest rates would rise under EMU if

povernments did not address the issue of unfunded pension Eastern deal liabilities.

The issue caused a great deal of controversy following a report from the House of Commons select committee, led by then-backbencher Frank Field. Mr Field, now minister for welfare reform at the DSS, said before the election that he believed it made no economic sense for Britain or any other country to join a single

сштепсу. Paul Thornton, chairman the association, warns that EMU convergence criteria fail to account for the liabilities. which across Europe amount to more than £1,000bn. While Britain has more than £750bn in funded pensions, Italy, France, Germany and Spain have giant future liabilities because of generous benefits paid for from taxes.

## of inflation in retreat

The latest figures on the US economy helped the financial markets stay calm yesterday. The Dow Jones index had barely moved by late morning, while a bout of profit-taking brought the dollar back from an earlilevel of ¥127.15. Evidence of weaker-than-

expected retail sales and prices at the factory gate in October built on the sense of reassurance Alan Greenspan, the Federal Reserve Chairman, had imparted earlier in the week. Although other indicators have confirmed that the economy is booming, with unemployment at its lowest for a quarter century, the Fed refrained from

raising interest rates this week because of the recent stock market turbulence. Retail sales fell by 0.2 per cent in October because of a big drop in car sales for the second month running. Excluding cars, the total was 0.4 per cent high-

er during the month.

Retail spending is expected

to pick up in the next month or two. "With Christmas just around the corner, stronger income growth bodes well for holiday sales," said Jonathan Basile, an economist at HSBC

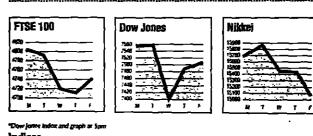
turers edged up by 0.1 per cent last month, but remained 0.2 per "Core" prices, excluding the But their level in the latest

three months compared with a year earlier has picked up sharply to 1.1 per cent, suggesting that producer prices have might passed their trough.

yesterday, October's industrial are expected to confirm that the economy is running at full capacity. If so, this will reignite the concerns about inflation triggered by last week's evidence on the tight jobs market.

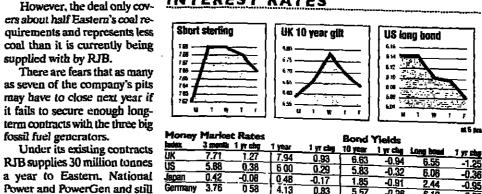
- Diane Cavle

#### STOCK MARKETS RIB secures

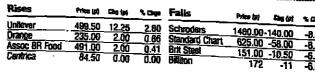




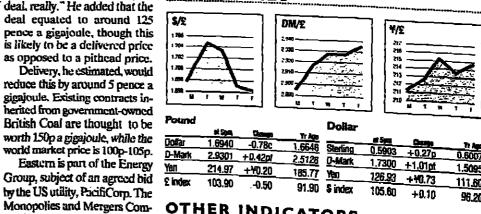
#### INTEREST RATES



#### ing 85 per cent of its output for MAIN PRICE CHANGES



#### CURRENCIES



#### OTHER INDICATORS mission report on the takeover is

* at \$ pm	Cog	Chap	Yr Ago	luio.	_	
Brent ()# (\$)	19.56	0.30	22.96		Caf	Haz g
Gold (S)	301 75	-6.35			3.90 109.7	Jan
Sliver (S)	5.06	0.03		100.00	3.7 153.81	
www.blo	omber	G COM	4.89	Base Rates	7.25 6.00	
_		Q-C0(1)		SOU	ce: Bloom	here

## Standard Life set to take on US sales figures put fear banks with phone account

The competition for bank customers will intensify next year when Standard Life launches a telephone-based account to rival those offered by the high street banks, other insurers and new entrants like the supermarkets and Virgin. Tom Stevenson. Financial Editor, reports.

Standard Life, one of the staunchest defenders of mutuality, is to take on the high street banks by launching a telephonebased banking service next year. The life insurer said yesterday it had applied to the Bank of England for a banking licence, a prerequisite for a company wanting to take deposits.

A spokesman at the Edinburgh-based group said Standard Life was hopeful of

receiving the go-ahead from the Until recently Standard Life Bank within the next few weeks and would start taking deposits early next year. It hopes to roll out a full range of services soon afterwards.

Standard Life is Europe's biggest mutual life insurer with more than 4 million policyholders and assets worth more than £57bn. It said yesterday it was in the final stages of ap-. plying for its banking licence. Launching a banking service

will not be a carpet-baggers charter, the group said yesterday. The bank will be a wholly owned subsidiary and opening an account will not confer membership. Anyway, Standard remained committed to mutuality, its spokesman said.

Standard's service will operate from a call centre in Edinburgh, where it is based. It will run in parallel with a deposit account from the Bank of Scotland where it currently directs funds from maturing policies.

and Bank of Scotland had a close relationship, with the insurer owning 32 per cent of the bank. Last year it raised £678m by placing all but 2.5 per cent of that stake. Standard Life's decision

marks the latest intensification of the competition for deposits, with supermarkets such as Tesco and Sainsbury's able to offer attractive deposit rates because they are not weighed down by the high costs of the branch-based high street banks.

Last year, Prudential, Britain's biggest life insurer, moved into banking and was quickly followed by Scottish Widows and Friends Provident. Richard Branson's Virgin has responded by offering an all in one mortgage and banking service.

Standard Life's banking operation will be headed by Jim Spowart, who set up Direct telephone-banking

Markets in New York. Prices charged by manufaccent lower than a year earlier. volatile food and energy components, were flat in the month.

Despite the favourable figures output statistics, due on Monday,

## 25/BUSINESS



**JEREMY** WARNER ON TURMOIL AT THE HIGH STREET BANK

## Why change is inevitable at NatWest:

Something must be about to happen at National Westminster Bank. The press often gets it wrong when it turns the spotlight of scrutiny on a company in apparent turmoil, and much of the recent speculation concerning NatWest has been misinformed. However, the sheer quantity of it, and Nat West's continued inability to put a lid on it all, would tend to suggest that this is more than a problem of public relations, that there are fundamental difficulties and processes at work here. Even if something is not already afoot, it is likely soon to be.

Some, at least, of this speculation is almost bound to prove self fulfilling. There are now such clear signs of disarray at Nat West that institutional shareholders will soon be demanding action, if they haven't already. Curiously, though, the best informed of this speculation is something that definitely won't happen. This is the old chestnut that NatWest should be merged with Barclays, a story which was probably first floated by Barclays itself and

has now taken on a momentum of its own. Nobody can blame Martin Taylor, chief executive of Barclays, for trying it on. If there is any possibility of being able to do it. Mr Taylor would be failing his shareholders by not pursuing the opportunity. The potential for cost savings and could be pulled off, might be vast.

The opportunity has also been quite cleverly pursued. Nat West seemed to put itself in play by holding merger talks, unsuccessfully, first with Abbey National and then with the Prudential. If those two aren't prepared to do a deal with NatWest, we certainly would, Barclays seems to be saying. At last here's an opportunity for the big league consolidation the British banking industry so desperately needs, is

the spin being put on it.
To be fair, Mr Taylor and his chairman, Andrew Buxton, both straightforward and realistic bankers, have always acknowledged that the competition hurdles would be formidable and possibly insurmountable. Even so, there seems to be a clear and well used strategy being applied here, which is that if you float the idea often enough, you might eventually wear everyone down and in time they could come to accept your point of view. At the very least, the possibility of a bid destabilises a major competitor.

In truth, the whole thing is not nearly as far down the line as some reports this week would suggest. There has been no approach by Barclays to NatWest, and it is not altogether clear that the Office of forms of low cost, supermarket and gen-

monopoly profit, if such a transaction Fair Trading has yet been consulted by Barclays on the competition issues.

On the other hand, there wouldn't actually be a lot of point in Barclays seeking confidential OFT guidance. It must already know what the answer would be; the combined bank would have such a dominant share of small business lending, retail outlets and credit card business that there would be no way of constructing such a merger in a manner that would avoid a Monopolies and Mergers Commission reference. Furthermore, the chances of the MMC approving such an anticompetitive takeover are so remote as to be scarcely

worth considering as a possible outcome. The whole idea, in other words, is just a lot of corporatist nonsense. Certainly it would be profoundly against the public interest. It is not even altogether clear it would be in the long term interests of shareholders either. The size of the management task in merging these two organisations could easily prove a lethal distraction during a period of rapid change for the banking industry.

Already the two main Scottish banks. Royal Bank of Scotland and Bank of Scotland, are outmanoeuvring their bigger brethren south of the border with new

erally more user friendly banking. Yesterday brought news that Standard Life is planning a low cost, high interest rate, telephone banking service, providing a new threat to the fat margins and profits of the

established English clearers. There may come a day, perhaps five years into the single currency after fully deregulated, no-frontiers banking has become a reality, and the newer forms of low cost banking are seriously entrenched in the market, when it might be possible for the competition authorities to consider such a merger. But for the time being, it is a complete non starter.

Where does that leave Nat West? Like Barclays itself, going it alone, seems to be the answer. The problem is that NatWest has so obviously misjudged and mishandled its affairs in recent years that it is not at all clear the present regime is up to the task. Derek Wanless, the chief executive, has recently set out challenging targets for improvement in return on capital and costs, which he is determined to achieve. He may or may not be given the benefit of the doubt by the City.

Unfortunately, the City does not appear inclined to apply the same degree of leniency to Lord Alexander, the chairman. Hired in the wake of the Blue Arrow de-

bacle, he seemed initially to do a good job in restabilising the bank. He also deserves credit for some necessary and well executed restructuring, particularly the disposal of Nat West Corp in the US. But the headlong expansion into investment banking has proved a costly mistake while NatWest's likely exit from this business looks like being as humiliating and shambolic as that of Barclays. Meanwhile the core domestic business seems to have been allowed to drift. The same is true of Coutts, once a market leader in private banking.

Some senior management change therefore looks pretty much inevitable. Round at Barclays, the fiasco of the BZW disposal has rather knocked the halo from Mr Taylor's head, but at least his job isn't in doubt. Such has been the recovery in Barclays' fortunes under Mr Taylor that he needs to do quite a lot wrong before he loses his star status in the City. Barclays has achieved greater things than NatWest in the past three years, undoubtedly, but the challenge faced in its core domestic business is the same. It is very hard to see how it can expand in the new forms of low cost banking that will eventually sweep the market without undermining its present margins and customer base. Solutions are in short supply.

## Brown to legislate on fresh code for fiscal stability

The Chancellor of the Exchequer plans to enshrine his tough approach to government spending in the law. In his 'pre-Budget' statement later this month, Gordon Brown will announce plans to legislate on a new code for stability in the government's finances, reports Diane Covie. Economics Editor.

Proposals for a "fiscal stability code" will be one of the highlights of the pre-Budget consultative statement, or "green Budget", on 25 November, Mr Brown will extend his commitment to openness in economic policy to legislation on how tax and spending plans should be set.

The Chancellor sees this as the logical extension of increased openness in monetary policy, where the requirement for the Bank of England to meet an inflation target and account for its success or failure is in the course of being incorporated in the law.

In future, governments will

for public sector borrowing, provide full information on the public finances at least once a year, and account for their success or failure in meeting their borrowing targets. The proposed legislation would also enshrine an annual pre-Budget consultation exercise.

The plan is likely to please the financial markets, which have already broadly welcomed the new framework for setting interest rate policy. Mr Brown's reputation for austerity is reasonably well-established, but the City would regard self-imposed restrictions on government borrowing as an improvement.

It would put Britain in the vanguard in terms of the openness of setting government finances, as only New Zealand and Australia have similar legally binding restrictions on tax and spending policy.

Elsewhere, the "pre-Budget" is expected to confirm the Government's existing commitment to limit its borrowing to no more than its investment spending - the "golden rule" and to keep the ratio of debt to national output stable.

It will, however, update the forecast for the public finances. which will look more favourable than at the time of strength of the economy. Most forecasters now expect the Public Sector Borrowing Requirement for this financial year to turn out lower than the Government's £11bn target.

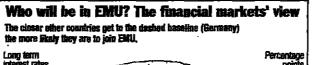
The document to be published by the Chancellor in 10 days' time will include, in addition, an analysis of the jobs market and the modernisation of the welfare state; a chapter on Britain's competitiveness; an assessment of fairness and tax, which will include progress reports of a few of the special reviews; and an updated economic forecast. It will not cover public

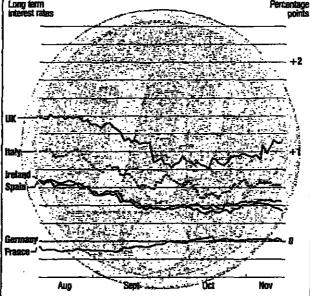
spending, as the commitment to hold to the planning total set by the Conservative government still stands. The comprehensive review of public spending will be completed by next summer. for the subsequent Budget.

A main document will be accompanied by background papers, and other announcements will follow the Chancellor's Commons statement.

Although the Treasury is trying to stop calling it the "Green Budget" - because this misled people into thinking it was about environmental measures onlythe document will be a shade of green, in contrast to the red hue of the actual Budget report.

Accountants settle De Lorean case Siemens buys US power business





investors no longer require such a high premium for holding that country's bonds compared to German ones, because they are confident the currency won't devalue against the mark. In other words, they think that country will be locked into a single currency with Germany in 10 years' time.

AWAY FROM EMU: However, if they think the country won't be in EMU, that it will have higher inflation, and that there is a risk of a future devaluation against the mark, then they will demand an extra premium for holding that country's bonds, so the line will move away from the base.

#### When will EMU start? The City Analysts' View.

Mikko Europe, Paine Webber, ABN Amro, JP Morgan, Destache Morgan Gresfell Salomon Brothers, Goldmon Sacks, HSBC James Capel, UBS what probability they placed on EMU starting on time.

Probability EMU starts on time: (83% last week) Probability PMU is delayed: 15% (15% (ast week) Probability EMU never happens: (2% last week)

#### Germany's deficit poses **EMU** threat

Germany's continuing struggle with its budget deficit, highlighted by figures released earlier this week, could jeopardise EMU, say some of The Independent's experts.

Julian Jessop of Nikko Europe, believes deficit difficulties could lead to an "all or nothing" EMU scenario. He said: "If EMU does go ahead, it is going to require a flexible interpretation of rules, leading to a broad EMU. But [the deficit] also increases the possibility that EMU won't happen at all." On Tuesday, a finance com-

mission reported that German tax revenues would be DM17.3bn (£5.9bn) lower than expected. This has prompted worries that the budget deficit could exceed 3 per cent of GDP, the Maastricht "ceiling".

"We're forecasting the budget deficit will be 3.2 per cent of GDP," said Heather Richardson of UBS.

Other experts believe that the budget deficit will fall below the 3 per cent level, but that the damage to its credibility has already been done. "Schemes like interest swaps, whilst being within the letter of the law, are certainly against the spirit of the Maastricht Treaty." remarked Mr Jesson.

#### IN BRIEF

#### IT firms lead the laggards among AIM companies

Multi-media and information technology companies dominate the list of worst-performing companies on the Alternative Investment Market (AIM). According to figures compiled by Datastream and ICV, the poorest performers since AIM was launched in June 1995 have been Omnimedia. a multimedia group, and First Technology, a media company, which both recorded a 98 per cent decline in their share price. Other poor performers included Clubpartners International, a golf course operator (minus 94 per cent) and Hansom, a taxicab dealership (minus 89 per cent). The best performer has been Westmont Energy, an oil company whose shares have soared from 15p to 138.5p, a rise of 823 per cent. Other high flyers were Abacus Recruitment (plus 647 per cent) and Celtic Football Club (plus 320 per cent).

#### Banks' ratings fall in Japan

The credit ratings of three more Japanese banks were downgraded by IBCA yesterday. The credit rating agency lowered ratings for the Asahi Bank, the Bank of Yokohoma and the Tokai Bank, saying that "the fall in stock prices threatens large valuation losses on the banks' now excessively large stock investments". And the misery for the Japanese banks looked set to continue, as the Nikkei hit its lowest level for two years with a 334.75 point fall to 15,082.52. The latest Nikkei fall reflects disappointment over a package of policy proposals designed to bolster economic growth.

#### **Energy firm to cut tariffs**

Independent Energy, the AIM-listed electricity supplier, is offering to cut 15 per cent from the electricity bills of small businesses when the market is thrown open to competition next April. The reduction is worth just under £2,000 a year on an average bill of £13,000.

#### Eastern accepts Offer curb

Eastern Electricity yesterday became the first of the regional power companies (REC) to accept the new price controls imposed by the regulator Offer. Customers will receive a 12 per cent reduction in bills over two years starting next April, worth £54 off the average domestic bill. The 14 RECs had until 5pm yesterday to accept the formula or decide to take Offer to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

#### Squeeze on exporters

Exporters are continuing to feel the squeeze, according to the latest CBI Regional Trends survey. In eight UK regions, the decline in export orders accelerated in the four months to October. But in Wales, the pace of decleration had slowed and in the North and the South-west, declines had levelled off, the CBI said. Despite the weakening of sterling, export prices remain the most important constraint on export orders, according to manufacturers. Firms in five regions - Northern Ireland, the South-cast, the North, Scotland and the South-west, expect export orders to rise over the next

#### the July Budget thanks to the be required to publish clear rules

The taxpayer is to get back just £3m after the Government yesterday settled its 12-year battle to extract damages from the auditors of the failed

Belfast car company, De Lorean. The two sides yesterday agreed to settle their long legal tussle outside court with Arthur Andersen, the international firm of accountants agreeing to pay the Government £18m compared with its claim of £300m. However, the Government's legal costs since the case began in 1985 are estimated to have reached £15m.

against Arthur Andersen in the US courts after a New York judge threw out its lawsuit alleging conspiracy.

fraud and negligence in February. The Government's case was that Arthur Andersen failed to alert it to frauds taking place at De Lorean and the parlous state of its finances. The company set up by John De Lorean in West Belfast to build his gull-winged sports car collapsed in 1982 after soaking up £77m of taxpayers' money.

Arthur Andersen's defence was that the Government had been aware It will have to shoulder these itself, early on of the company's financial problems but had been determined

The case had been due to begin in New York early next year. Arthur Andersen is still fighting a \$100m claim brought in parallel by David Allard, the trustee in bankruptcy for the De Lorean company. A spokesman for Arthur Andersen said: "Since we have reached a sound, sensible and reasonable agreement with the Government perhaps there is scope for a

to keep it open for political reasons.

Arthur Andersen has paid a heavy price in other ways. It has not had a government contract for 12 years. Michael Harrison

similar agreement with the trustee."

Siemens, the German electronics and business. The US group is seeking sepengineering giant, yesterday strengthened its grip on the power station market by acquiring the power generation business of Westinghouse of the US for \$1.5bn (£884m).

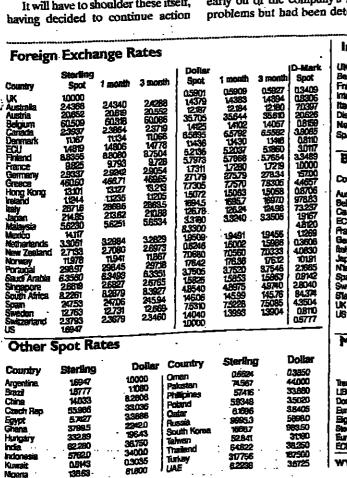
The deal lifts Siemens into number two position in the world's £30bn power generation market, behind General Electric of the US, and creates a grouping with sales of £4.5bn. Siemens bought the NEI Parsons

Royce earlier this year. The agreement involves only Westinghouse's fossil-fuel power station

arate buyers for its nuclear energy systems business and another division which handles nuclear material for the US military and Department of Energy.

Westinghouse's power generation business has a workforce of 8,000 and sales last year of \$2.2bn. It supplies gas turbines and steam turbines. Siemens Power Generation had sales last year of £3.2bn and has 11,500 employees. power generation business from Rolls-Together the two businesses will control about 12 per cent of the market compared with GE's 15 per cent.

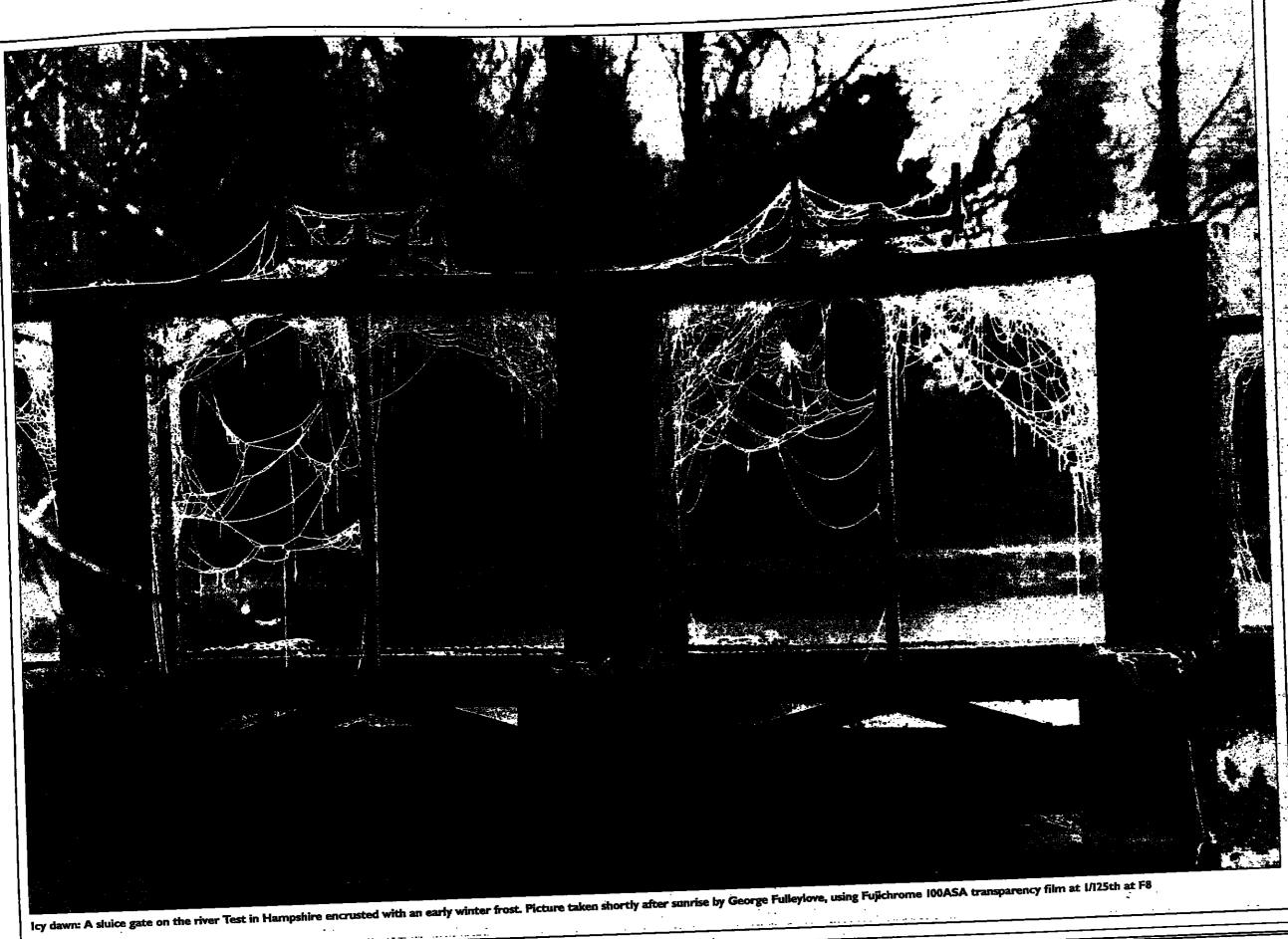
Michael Harrison



Interest Rates UK Bese France 275% 330% Intervention 3,30% Italy Discount 6,25% Central Switzeria Discount 3.75% 100% 410% **Bond Yields** 5 yr chy 558 -044 511 -008 493 -003 521 -008 499 -007 550 -007 550 -007 504 -039 530 -006 530 -007 5575 -002 10 yr chg 5.95 0.03 5.70 -0.07 5.42 -0.02 5.75 -0.06 5.59 -0.06 5.50 -0.06 5.50 -0.06 5.50 -0.06 5.50 -0.06 5.50 -0.06 5.50 -0.06 5.50 -0.06 5.50 -0.06 5.50 -0.06 5.50 -0.06 5.50 -0.06 5.50 -0.06 571 000 431 -011 432 -001 472 -005 443 -008 443 -000 543 -015 544 -012 478 -007 505 -008 7.14 -004 555 -002 Money Market Rates Treasury Bills
LIBOR
Domestic Depos
Eurostering Depa
Eighte Bank Bills
Stering CDs
Eurodollar CDs
ECU Deposits Source: Bloomberg www.bloomberg.com

Liffe Financial Futures Open interest 155426 253345 Contract Long Bond Dec-97
US Long Bond Dec-97
US Long Bond Dec-97
Issian Bond D 19.72 19.27 19.47 19.34 19.25 19.09 19.58 19.55 19.55 19.55 19.54 19.53 19.53 19.53 19.53 19.53 19.53 19.53 19.53 19.53 19.53 65596 3314 10159 14771 49740 92775 26274 37814 200 1084 13762 520 599 11951 12.30 130.48 92.35 92.27 96.20 96.04 93.82 94.53 96.54 96.50 97.85 95.34 483000 11175 13022 9232 9232 9616 9596 9389 9445 9654 9733 9773 9533 9531 113668 144371 120085 305660 304545 108588 111909 22944 55350 8940 6598 64832 478300 Liffe FTSE 100 Index Option Settlement Price: 474180 272 243 243 330 202 300 222 368 242 236 263 Feb Put 392 244 361 262 329 281 -296 300 Cali Put 272 156 243 160 213 199 184 222 139 31 . 104 30 73 31 50 28 45 34 60 31 84 31 113 32 Spot CIF NW Eur Dec97 Mar98 May98 Vol: Fuel Oil (3,6%) Commodity Indices 145 -016 039 000 -035 -657 07) 126 000 009 -185 215.26 23123 85.86 168.79 19103 463.54 23935 7974 18977 18250

Industrial Metals Chg LINE stocks Chg 1649 1490 1537 5725 6205 5630 11565 2400 800 -300 -150 7000 6500 -100 1985 1492 1958 596 596 5285 5600 1181 719250 45600 343025 116000 67008 3175 489400 23 8 45 15 70 SS 10 **Precious Metals** Oz Day's Year's chg chg Patinum 38400 600 -025 Pletinum 22520 130 -580 Knugrands 30495 -7570 Patindum 20600 400 8550 Patindum 2860 305 5596 Sovs 7464 Silver 298 003 005 Nobles 38205 Gold 30835 000 -7485 Maple Leaf 31906 -7269 Agricultural Los Potatoss LIFFE Chonne LIFFE Storne UFFE Eltorne ADA Nov97 Feb98 Apr98 Vot: Nover 1865.00 Janes 165.000 Mares 1643.00 Vol. 3860 \$25kkg 102700 105400 Nov97 Jan98 Mar98 Vol: Nox97 Mar98 Apr88 Vol: 74.55 78.85 78.75 8900 170000 Com UFFE SOME LIFFE Storie CBOT Centre hebi CBOT 5:5% babbs 30000 Oct97 Nov97 Jan98 Vot; Dec97 27225 Mar98 29225 May98 28800 Vol: 0 Nov97 Jarge Marge Vol: Nov97 Jan98 Mar98 Vol: 2300 315.40 320.00 124000 232 Other Softs Dac Live Cattle (CME) \$/40k to Feb Pork Bellies (CME) \$/40k to Jan Otenge Juice (CTN) \$/75k to Dec Mik (CSC) \$/50k beh Jan Flax (WCE) \$/20 to 6633 Dec White Maize 6150 Nov Rubber 8290 Dec Cotton Nov Crude Palm 15200 Dec Soya Oil 33100 Nov Wooden Yern (SAP) ar Ru mr. (TCM) Y/ 5k kg (CTM) S:50k to (KLC) \$/25 to (CST) \$/60k to



200M

HomePro

• 32Min EDO PAN

 4.3Gb Seegete vitra ATA herd del 24x Max speed LG CO-ROM 4Mb SIS advanced graphics 3D ESS wavetable sound

 512K pipeline burst cache Soundforce 525 stereo maine spec BM Speech Recognition (microphone upb

14" SVGA NI 0.2800 colour screen (15" E69 +VAT = £81.08 and 17" £219+VAT = £257.33 estra) Solivere bundle including Lotus Small

200M-2 HomePro

## Our Best Utters Ever:

## The Best Specification!

32Mb or 64Mb RAM
23th RAM gloss you satisfy the number of security for number of security from the security for the security forecast for the security for the security for the security for the

4.3Gb Hard Disk

56K Voice Modem

**VideoPhone Receive** 

 ✓ 4Mb Advanced Graphics

Speech Recognition 24 Speed CD
High performance 31: Nan CD come debiess recorded
resources performance of 13: CD drives and allows

SD Wavetable Sound
SS 30 Workship town sound system was 30 elegen and
another protects for the local quality.

38 UK Showrooms





All For Just £999 +VAT!

This amazing 200M HomePro PC with Intel Pentium 200Mirz processor with MMX Technology includes an incredible specification at Just 1999 +VAT. Our higher performance 'Best Buy' 200M-2 model includes additional software and is in fact [aster than our 32Mb 233-2 Pentium if processor based system due to the amazing IBM MX processor with MMX Technology and a massive 64Mb RAM. Both systems also include VideoPhone receive and IBM voice recognision. Order early this week and claim a FRIEE Epson Stylus colour inket printer.

FREE EPSON PRINTER Free with the first 1500 orders only. Spson Stylus color 300 stiget printer is ideal for home and small business. Higher specification dual cartridge model included with 2008-2 systems.

**EPSON** HomePro Exec Models include PC physicis. PC headset microphone and 15 superb multimedia titles on 13 CDs Only ETB +VAT = (592.53 inc. VAT) extra.

Freephone Time Now!

Offer Must End 22nd November

ି ଅ®େ•

TOMORROW IN THE NEW-LOOK, SEVEN-SECTION



## **THANK YOU WHAM!**

From the depths of the Spice Age, it's time to reassess the definitive mid-Eighties pop stars

#### Plus

- The best for your child a parents' guide to the 100 top state schools
- Paul Smith on the art of colour, selling, and creativity
- Erica Jong on what Louise Woodward has done to America
- Tick tock artificial insemination and the single girl
- Britain's tastiest puds recipes from the nation's leading chefs

PLACE A REGULAR ORDER TODAY

Indes and

Printer to the

0

(1)

48 exotic

# TIME OFF

TRAVEL, LEISURE & SPORT



Cool for cats: lions hang out with the insousiance you'd expect from the beasts at the top of the food chain

Photograph: Andrew Fraser

## Prides and prejudices

Laid-back lions, contemptuous leopards, Tina Turner lookalikes: all life is there at Tanzania's Tarangire wildlife park, as Richard Holledge discovered.

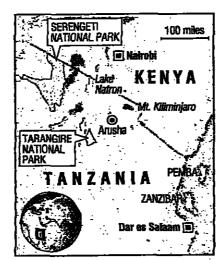
¿ The sky is dark with clouds, the impala skitter nervously in the tall yellow grass, a giraffe cranes effortlessly above the thorn trees. As I wait for the extremely small oneengined plane to arrive on the landing-strip on the edge of the Serengeti wildlife park. I am being let into the dark world of Tina

Turner's make-up secrets. My confidante is Miss Hollie Vest from Las Vegas. She may not be a household name in Britain, but she went down a storm in Sun City, that extravagant confection of varieties created out of the South African veldt, where for 19 months she starred as a Tina Turner lookalike.

It's all to do with getting a tan and keeping it, using lots of dark powder and foundation and, of course, donning a considerable wig. Hollie, by the way, is white, which makes the transformation all the more impressive, though it is fair to say that Hollie and Tina are similarly shaped and of an age.

Apparently, so convincing is her transformation that when Hollie/Tina was appearing at a club owned by Bill Medley (half of the Righteous Brothers) he didn't realise, upon meeting Hollie after the show, that she was indeed Tina.

No wonder there's an abiding sense of



unreality about life on safari. It's not so much the animals you see in the bush, it's the people you meet in the lodge: the grimvisaged retired headmaster who asked questions as if he were about to give you six of the best - or have you fed to the lions: the honeymoon couple from Chicago whose animal longings were plain to see; the fluttery female from the rarefiedly rich pastures of Sunningdale, Berkshire, who was over for the week to watch her husband play a spot of polo in nearby Arusha.

Above all, there was Frank, a host at the lodge. A bit of a legend, Frank - a cross between Michael Heseltine and Errol Flynn, complete with china-blue eyes. It came as no surprise to hear that he had been interviewed by Complete Woman magazine for their series, "Bachelors of the Bush".

It was he who greeted me with a flourish and a bottle of cold Sprite, and introduced me to the Mashado Swala camp and the improbable luxury that typifies life on the range in north-west Tanzania. This was in the Tarangire National Park, south east of Arusha, and boasted accommodation in tents. We are not talking bivouacs here. This is serious luxury, with comfy beds, showers bursting with hot water, gold plate taps and those little pots of shower gel courtesy of Bromley.

The tents are scattered some way from the hub of the camp - the "mess" - which serves dry martinis, respectable South African white and elegant European food with all the aplomb you could hope for.

You don't just chance on these places. You can't catch a bus or thumb a lift into

the bush in the hope of finding a B&B. If you haven't booked in advance, the place to go is Arusha, some 40 minutes from Kilimanjaro airport, which is lined with organisations offering safaris. It's hard to know which to choose. For example, I was horrified to be overtaken by six vans all in a row, sporting the logo of the tour operators Abercrombie & Kent. It is impossible to enjoy the drama of the bush when you are in such a traffic jam. And how do you know whether your guide is prepared to make the effort and take the time to find the animals and explain what is going on? So it was with a sense of serendipity that I was taken to the Mashado Swala and met the dashing Frank.

The first glimpse of life in the wild didn't Continued next page

-INSIDE

ISTANBUL

**PARIS** 

GLENN HODDLE

RUGBY UNION

ROUND-THE-WORLD SAILING

Looking to the future 24 Last of the amateurs 20 48 exotic hours 3 The hip bar hop 5 Life on a Whitbread boat 17

## SILK : CUT ULTRA tosacco seriouslu Banages hlaeth SMOKING CAUSES CANCER Chief Medical Officers' Warning I mg Tar 0.1 mg Nicotine

## Prides and prejudices

feel, well, very wild, despite the impala which grazed in the camp grounds. All those Martinis, probably. But an evening by the fireside with Frank quickly put me right. Sometimes whole prides of lions will settle in a camp, padding around the tents, roaring a bit. Buffalo wandered unhindered. It can be dangerous. That's why every evening a guard with a spear and a torch guides you safely from tent to dining-room, and even to the loo.

Certainly, on a particularly blowy night, with the tent banging around like a full rigger off the Cape of Good Hope, I was woken by the unmistakable sound of a lion's growl. I leapt out of bed to peer through the awnings at the shadow of a lioness and cubs settling down yards from my canvas cosiness. In fact, the cold light of day rewealed them as a boulder and a thorn bush. But it could have been.

The sense of unreality persists. Even the animals seem to be part of the conspiracy. The Tanzanian park authorities do not allow foot safaris, so most of your animalspotting is from the safety of a four-wheel drive vehicle. The guide for the day, Stanislaus - named after a character in the Bible, he insisted rather puzzlingly - used to come to a quiet halt. "What do you see?" he would ask. You'd look across at a herd of nervy wildebeest and cautious zebra and look again. In the foreground were lions, hanging out with the insouciance you expect from the guys at the top of the food

They are so laid back that they can hardly be bothered to turn their heads in the direction of your clicking cameras. Leopards contemptuously lounge in the branches of trees, tails hanging down, giving interlopers the hard stare. Hyenas, with their high necks and round shoulders, oaf around like bouncers on the run. Cheetahs sit coyly in the shade of an acacia presenting their cuddly little cubs like gift-wrapped Christmas presents. And just to attract a little limelight, 30 ostriches

sashay across the plain, all flouncy and feathery like so many Beverley Sisters.

The show, however, is stolen by the elephants. I stood for half-an-hour above the river Tarangire, a muddy little affair, as more than 60 padded quietly along, splashing gently, pausing only to have a quick roll in the mud. Unhurried, one-paced, confident and calm. A big family - elephant herds are all related - on a jolly day out.

You realise that all this calm is deceptive when you come upon a zebra, its innards ripped out, a slash from a lion's claw on its rump, its body already expanding in the heat; or you get a pungent whiff of the carcass in the jaws of a hyena. Then it all becomes real. And, perversely, the more you sit quietly, the more the detail of the drama somehow brings home the mightiness of it all.

A sex-starved mongoose clings on for dear life as one of his mates tries to knock him off the object of his passion; bat-cared foxes pop out of the ground, their little round ears a signal to all and hungry; agama lizards, iridescent in blue, red and green, practise their push-ups on the warm rocks.

One detail which delighted me almost as much as the sighting of the big beasts was the secret of the whistling thorn. Each branch carries a little, hard fruit which can be inhabited by an ant. The termite drills a hole, and when the wind blows the

You look up, to catch a glimpse of screaming flocks of birds around the waterhole: plovers screech, and starlings, glorious in bright blue and white, come hopping up to catch the crumbs from your picnic. And from these details you gaze to the horizon many miles away, across an unending expanse of yellow grass, trees with thorns as sharp as two-inch nails, and rounded outcrops of rock, one of which has a hollow decorated with carvings by itinerant Masai, who use the place for their annual circumcision ceremonies. At last, a sense of the history, a feeling for the wildness.



Show stealers: a herd of elephants ambles away from their watering place

Photograph: Andrew Fraser

#### TAKING OFF FOR TANZANIA

When to go

Tanzania is relatively dry and cool from June to October. Rains are heaviest in April and May, with lighter spells in November and December.

Getting there The closest airport to Tarangire is lowest fare is £539,80 return including UK and Tanzanian taxes. Bridge The World (0171-91) 0900) has a fare of £505 return on KLM via Amsterdam from a number of UK airports. Departure tax of U\$\$20 (about £12) is payable for the return.

by Alliance Air (0181-944 5012). The

Kilimanjaro International, served weekly

on Sundays from Heathrow via Entebbe

Getting in British passport holders need a visa. For Commission, 43 Hertford Street. London W!Y 8DB (0171-499 8951). Return it with your passport, two photos and £38. It takes a week, or 24 hours if you apply in person.

the application form for a three-month

tourist visa, send a stamped addressed

envelope to the Tanzanian High

Footprint's East Africa Handbook 1998 has just been published, price £14.99.

Where to stay Richard Holledge paid £240 per night to stay at Mashado. This covers full board. flights, drives, guide and park fees. You can book direct through Mashado central reservations, PO Box 14823, Arusha, Tanzanía (00 255 57 6585); send e-mail to Mashado@habari.co.tz. or book in the UK with Africa Travel Centre (0171-387 1211). On Safari (0171-823 5900) or Carrier Tours (01625

## She's got a ticket to ride, but they don't care

There is surely no worse travel nightmare than this, writes Simon Calder. It is 4.30am, and you are 6,000 miles from home at a check-in desk at the world's highest international airport. You have just learnt that your mother has died suddenly.

Thanks to the heroic efforts of your family, assisted by the BBC World Service, you have been tracked down while travelling in South America. Your father has booked and paid for the journey back to Britain to enable you to attend the funeral. But now the airline representative is saying that there is no record of any booking.

That was the experience suffered by Nicola Medlik at the hands of American Airlines at La Paz airport. Even though she had both the reservation reference and details of her father's credit card, airline staff initially denied the existence of a booking on the flight to Miami. They then agreed that a seat had been reserved, but insisted that the ticket had not been paid

Nicola's father, the distinguished tourism academic Professor S Medlik, had booked the trip through British Airways and paid for it with his Access card. "I thought it was a foolproof way of making sure my daughter could get home," he says.

said there was no ticket waiting, Nicola suggested that the staff call either the credit card company, or the US office of the airline, to confirm her story. They declined to do so (because, says the airline, telcommunication links were faulty) and said she would have to buy a ticket.

Her offer to pay by cheque, drawn in dollars on a US bank, was rejected. Eventually she managed to find an automatic teller machine that accepted her card. It paid out just enough cash for her to buy the ticket.

At Miami, British Airways had her onward ticket to London waiting, and she arrived in time for her mother's funeral. Her father was understandably concerned and called BA to try to clear the matter up. In his words: "They were utterly indifferent to my view that I expected them at least to look into the matter, since I had made the reservations with, and paid for them to, BA. I was passed on to four different people and explained to each of them what had happened. They insisted that this was a matter between me and American Airlines and nothing to do with BA; they even refused to make a note of my name and telephone number so that we might discuss the matter later."

Professor Medlik was also horrified by the attitude of American Airlines: "Despite knowing the circumstances and my daughter's distress, the AA manager and staff at

When, however, American Airlines La Paz airport appeared quite happy to let her miss her mother's funeral."

Some weeks after the bereavement, the Medlik family finally received apologies from the two airlines. American Airlines pointed its corporate finger firmly at BA, "... since your letter indicates that payment was made to them. We have no record of receiving details of this from British Airways".

BA's director of marketing. Martin George, accepted responsibility in a letter to Professor Medlik: "Clearly we are at fault for not setting up the pre-paid ticket advice correctly. Our reservations manager has taken up this matter to ensure greater care is taken in future. I apologise for the considerable inconvenience and upset you and your daughter experienced." Mr George also refers to the attitude of BA staff: "I am very disappointed with the lack of help given by our people. Our customers are top priority at British Airways and we should have made every effort to solve this problem. Please accept my apologies. We will do better for you in future."

Professor Medlik regards BA's response as "a handsome apology", but had to wait more than a month before the £500 double payment was refunded. He is less impressed with American Airlines: They were not very forthcoming about the behaviour of their staff, which was at best indifferent and at worst callous. However, customer care seems to leave

A survey carried out this week by 'The Independent' suggests the experience of the Medlik family to be an exception. We contacted 23 of the leading airlines operating from the UK. All of those who responded promise extra care for passengers needing to travel urgently.

All the airlines which responded make humanitarian provisions for passengers who have suffered bereavement. Such a privilege applies to close family members, but most airlines will extend this to include a common-law partner - including one of the same sex - or anyone else who is especially close.

The responses from Cathay Pacific and British Midland are typical: "Staff are trained to be flexible to meet the needs of passengers on an individual basis"; "All reservations supervisors and team leaders have the authority to look at distressing situations and to make the

appropriate flight arrangements". Some airlines, however, lay down more specific guidelines. If a passenger needs to buy a ticket, many will waive early-booking or minimum-stay requirements for cheaper tickets. Aer Lingus, for example, has an official compassionate fare" set below full economy levels. United Airlines offers the lowest available fare and waives conditions. Iberia and KLM, in contrast, sellthe appropriate publicly available fare.

If you have to travel at a busy time, the flight may be fully-booked. Most airlines will "priority waitlist" you, which means that as soon as a seat becomes available, you get it. British Airways goes further: "If a flight was full, our customer service staff in the UK and overseas would endeavour to find a seat in any cabin if necessary to try and ensure their departure. We could also arrange transfer to another carrier free of charge in some circumstances." Large airlines with frequent departures on extensive networks are able to explore alternative routines to help a passenger reach a destination in the minimum time.

The trickiest question is about how passengers demonstrate that this is genuinely an emergency. Depressingly. there is evidence of people falsely claiming a bereavement so as to qualify for a cheap ticket or find a space on a flight. "We sometimes get calls for such assistance but find that some callers never come back when they are asked for proof. Such requests are always for full, long-haul flights," says Air France, El Al says, "We rely on the integrity of passengers. Only in extreme cases would we ask for proof." Most carriers will ask for a death certificate or doctor's note, but discretion is exercised - if a passenger

needs to get a flight in the next couple of hours, this may be waived.

Two airlines, American and Air Canada, operate discounts retrospectively. The passenger buys a full economy fare, then upon supplying proof of the emergency a refund is made. American says, "This is the most effective way of helping people who are genuinely distressed." On Air Canada this arrangement is an option; you can. instead, supply evidence at the time and buy a discounted ticket immediately.

One final piece of the jigsaw: how to contact a relative who is in a distai corner of the world. The BBC World Service (0171-240 3456) broadcasts a very limited number of appeals on its English-language service. Each case is decided on its merits, and assessed accoording to the likelihood that contact will be made - e.g. the knowledge that the person has a short-wave radio.

Ė١

a(e\_\_\_\_

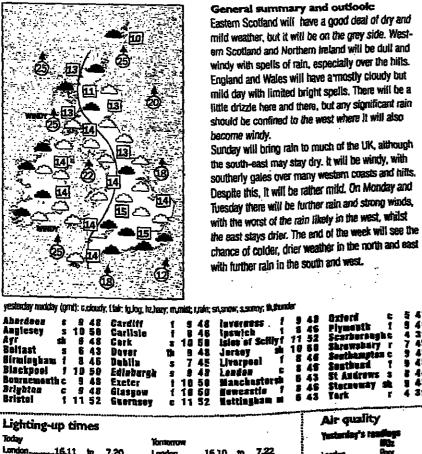
34" 3.

yrār.

The airlines that participated in the survey were Aer Lingus, Air Canada, Air France, Air India, Air New Zealand, Alitalia, American Airlines, British Airways, British Midland, Cathay Pacific, El Al, Iberia, Japan Airlines, KLM, Lufthunsa, Ountas, Thai International, United Airlines and Virgin Atlantic. The airlines that declined to respond within the three working days in which we invited replies were: Aeroflot, Continental Airlines, Malaysia Airlines and Singapore Airlines.

#### WEATHER

The British Isles, noon today



s 8 48 Cardiff s 10 50 Carlisio

\_16.21 b 7.30 \_.16.14 b 7.31 .16.21 b

Afr Bellast

Blackpool 1 10 50 Bournementh c 9 48

Lighting-up times

Manchester \_\_ 16.12 to 7.36

Newcastle ..... 16.03 to 7.40

10 50 Carlisi 8 48 Cerk 6 43 Doyer 8 46 Deblin

Exeter

General summary and outlook Eastern Scotland will have a good deal of dry and mild weather, but it will be on the grey side. Westem Scotland and Northern Ireland will be duil and windy with spells of rain, especially over the hills. England and Wales will have a mostly cloudy but mild day with limited bright spells. There will be a little drizzle here and there, but any significant rain should be confined to the west where it will also

become windy. Sunday will bring rain to much of the UK, although the south-east may stay dry. It will be windy, with southerly gales over many western coasts and hills. Despite this, it will be rather mild. On Monday and Tuesday there will be further rain and strong winds, with the worst of the rain likely in the west, whilst the east stays drier. The end of the week will see the chance of colder, drier weather in the north and east with further rain in the south and west.

5 England Walks C England N England Scotland N betand

b 7.32 to 7.33

b 7.42

7,38

16.20

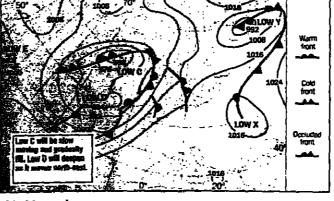
16.13

\_16.11 to

\_16.08

Newcestle .....16.01

Atlantic chart, noon today



#Oz Good Good Good Good Good Good

World w	at.	her	'mosi r	ecent available tigus	<b>E 2</b> 1	eco t	caí tene	:		
Athens		28		Florence		12		New York		4 39
Anchiand		18		Frankfart Comma		8 9		Mice Mice		16 61
fi. Aires Bangkak		33		Gibraltar		18		Kicosia Paris		23 73 7 45
Bareniona		15		Heisinki		15		Prague		8 46
Beirst		ŽŽ		Hong Kong	_	31		Royklavik		2 35
Reigrade		15		islankul		18		Rio de Jan		38100
Sertie		.5		Jerusalem		28		सीप्रकर्णाः		20 68
Besthay		31		Je'bery		23		Rome		15 59
Engaseis Budanest		14		K. Longer Lishen		33		Stáckholm Szalasza		7 45
Caire		25		Los Angeles		13		Sydney Tenerite		25 77
Cape Term		23		Madrid		Ĭ		Tokyo		25 77 16 61
Casabianca		20		Majorta	Ē	16	61	Vanice		14 57
Christanich		15		حتلها		18		Vlenna		8 46
Copenhages		.7		Melicume		21		#9129A	3	14 57
Cerfu Darwin		21 32		Mentreal		-3		Maskingten		4 39
Maines		25		Moscow Marsich		5 7		Wellington	1	19 66
	~~~		 				43	Zurick	f	7 45

SOZ Good Good Good Good Good Good

High tides AM HT PM HT 1:51 7.4 14:06 7.4 11:21 9.9 23,42 10.0 7:1913.8 19:42 14.0 Hull (Albert Dock) 6:10 9.1 18:40 9.0 0:24 3.7 12-42 3.7

AA Roadwatch

London, A1 between Wathord Way, Mill Hill Circus and Fiveways Comer, Car-nageway reduced to two lanes for long term roadworks until 31st May 1998 Willshire, MA J16-J17 Swindon to Chipcentram Contrallow with two lanes each way and a 50mph speed limit until 28th November Greater London, M1, between J6-J5 Wat-

Greater London, M1, between J6-15 Wat-lord area. Roadworks and a contration-with off peak and overmight lane and car-riageway closures. A 50 mph speed limit is also in place Unint 22nd December West Middlandic. M6 18 Three lanes. North and two lanes South % Imph speed limit in force with additional lane absource. Table 10th Characters. clasures Until 19th December West Yorkshire, M.1 J.43-J.42 Stockton to Lotthouse (M62) A controllow and a 50mph speed land are in place until 13th

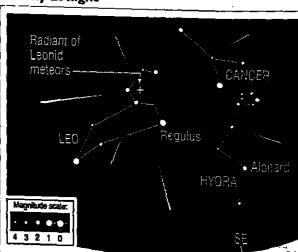
A803 East Dunbartonshire, Glasgow Road, Kilsyth Roadworks at Ballmatlock Road until 9th December. Cambridgeshire, A14 between Hunting-don and Ferstanton Lane closures until 19th November Nottinghamshire, M1 J26-J25 Nottingfrom Roadworks and contration until Greater Manchester, A56. Old Trafford. Roadworks until 19th January 1998 South Yorkshire. M18 J2-J3 Doncaster.

Out and about with AA Fload-watch cut 9336 407 for the label local and national natio news Source. The Automo-bide Association Calls charged at 39p per mun (chasp rate) 49p per mun (all other stones) loc var

Contraflow until 21st November

Sun and moon

The sky at night



Leonid meteors appear to radiate from a point in the 'Sickle' of Leo. This chart shows Leo over the eastern horizon as he appears at about 3 a.m. this week

This week the Earth is due to plough through a stream of dusty. debris that has broken off Comet Temple-Tuttle. Bits hurtling through the atmosphere in streaks of fire will produce the Leonid meteor shower, peaking around Monday or Tuesday night. Unlike most meteor showers, the Leonids are not an annual affair, year in year out. They only come up with good displays when their parent comet is fairly near Earth - on a cycle that usually repeats about every 33 years. Anticipation is mounting because the last truly spectacular performance by the Leonids was witnessed in 1966, and meteor numbers have been increasing since 1994. No one can be sure how many will be seen this year. The only thing to do is to watch and find out. The constellation Leo, containing the radiant point of the shower, currently rises in the early hours of the morning.

Jacqueline Mitton



Good Good Good Good Good Good Good

11:41 4.4 23:56 4.4

## 3/CITY BREAK

## 48 hours in ... Istanbul

You need a break - and a short cut to the soul of a city. Each week, 'The Independent' provides a prescription for the perfect weekend break. This week, Claire Gervat and Simon Calder spend 48 hours in Turkey's largest city.

Why go now?

ecause Istanbul is arguably the greatest city in Europe, and Asia. Because you are 10 degrees closer to the Equator. And because you can become a Turkish lire millionaire by exchanging just £3.22.

British Airways (0345 222111) and Turkish Airlines (0171-499 4499) fly twice a day from London Heathrow to Istanbul; Turkish Airlines goes three times a week from Manchester. Turkish Airlines has a special offer from Manchester of £150 return (including the swingeing £30 tax). If you travel on the 5pm flight from Heathrow you pay £194 return, including tax.

et your bearings

You would be forgiven for thinking that many of the city's 12 million residents have come to the airport to meet vou. If you're in a rush and feeling flush, get a taxi into town. Pick it up from the official stand and you should pay what's on the meter, between about £7 and £10,

Otherwise, offer a couple of pounds for the short ride to Yesilkoy station and take the wonderfully ramshackle railway around the coast, and past Topkapi Palace to Sirkeci station - which opens up to the heart of European Islambul. The centre of the city is Sultanahmet Square, where you'll find the tourist office and a good free

Check in

The Sultanahmet area has a huge number of hotels in all price ranges. Claire Gervat stayed at the Mavi Guest House (00 90 212 516 5878), round the corner from Topkapi Palace, where rooms start at £9, including breakfast. Aladdin Guest House, just south of the Blue Mosque (00 90 212 516 2330). There's also a former prison nearby, converted into a Four Seasons hotel. Current guests pay upwards of £130 for a room, but they do, at least, have the option of checking out when they want. A more affordable option is the nearby Hotel Empress Zoe (00 90 212 518 254), simple and elegant, with doubles from £40.

Take a ride

The best Bosporus crossing is a source of great debate, and the only way to form a view is to do some research: criss-cross the neck of water between he Mediterranean and the Black Sea at 25 pence a time, and revel in the ever-changing views.

Take a hike

Many of Istanbul's cultural attractions are within easy walking distance of each other, so you can combine culture with mild exercise. Starting in Sultanahmet Square, take a short stroll down the Hippodrome, now a tiny park with just a few reminders of its chariot-racing days. Half-way down is the Museum of Turkish and Islamic Art, remarkable as one of the few places in Istanbul where you can look at carpets without baving to buy one. From there you can go round to the old bazzar and the Mosaic Mu-

Cyprus £149 rtn

seum, then through an archway to the front of the Blue Mosque and across the park to Aya Sofia. If you have any energy left, head round the corner and past a row of restored Ottoman houses, then follow the tramlines down to the hectic ferry terminal at

Lunch on the run

If you've made it down to the waterfront, grab a snack from one of the nattily dressed boatmen who moor among the ferries and cook up fish on precariously bobbing grills. It's an enjoyable sight, and even more heartening when it comes to paying for your sandwich, a snip at 35 pence. There are also the ubiquitous kebabs, spiced and delicious, a far cry from Britain's flabby imitations.

Cultural afternoon

Head back up the hill to Topkapi Palace and an insight into life as an Ottoman ruler, or a member of his household. Don't miss the views over the city from the terraces in the fourth courtyard, or the ornate Baghdad Kiosk. The bad news is that the most interesting section of the palace, the Harem, can be visited only on a guided tour, which you have to book half-an-hour beforehand. This wouldn't be such a problem if the group were smaller, or if the guide were not trying to conduct the tour in two languages at once. Ignore the words and concentrate on the lavish tiled, painted and gilded interiors

Window shopping

With around 4,000 shops, the Covered Bazaar must have the largest range of retail opportunities on the planet particularly of old silver jewellery, carpets, leather goods and designer fakes. The displays could tempt even Scrooge into extravagance. Your only obstacle to window-gazing in the bazaar will be the determined shop owners trying to lure you inside and part you from your cash. On the other hand, with the current exchange rate, why resist?

You'd think that Sultanahmet would be teeming with waterside bars, hours before dinner. But the local traders, usually so good at thinking up pleasant ways for visitors to spend money, have missed out on this one. Instead, head up the Bosporus to Ortakoy (on the European side, beside the private university) to check out the drinking haunts of Istanbul's trendy liberals.

Demure doner

Turku Café and Bar, in Beyoglu at Imam Adnan Sok 9, serves up traditional food in hearty portions to an appreciative crowd of locals. The other main attraction is the live music: Turkish folk songs sung with feeling, and not just by the musician (there's only room for one). A huge meal with a beer shouldn't cost more than a fiver.

Sunday morning: go to church

The Blue Mosque is, along with Aya Sofia, the city's defining landmark, and even if you think you don't want to go inside there are plenty of persistent guides who will try to persuade you otherwise. Inside, the walls are largely covered with the blue tiles that give the building its name, but the main impact is from the sheer size of the place. The solemnity is rather spoilt, however, by all the bare-footed tourists carrying their shoes around in green plasDefining landmark: the Blue Mosque, so called because of the colour of the tiles inside

Bracing brunch Just across the road from the Blue Mosque is Lale Restaurant, whose

main claim to fame is as the Pudding Shop in Midnight Express. Pity the poor hippies who turn up there now in search of authentic seediness. It looks much the same as the other restaurants in the street, with the exception of its incongruous tartan tablecloths.

A walk in the park People do not go to Istanbul to enjoy

a gentle stroll amid pleasant parks and gardens. But if you want to leave the city behind, take a taxi to the edge the crumbling, ancient walls that protected the western flank.

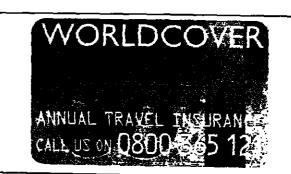
Make for Tekfur Saray, the doddery Byzantine palace of Constantine Porphyrogenetus. As you wander through its wide open spaces, you feel a sense

of emptiness and isolation that eludes you everywhere else in Istanbul.

The icing on the cake

... or rather, the icing sugar on the Turkish delight. Don't wait to stock up until you reach the airport for your return trip - the boxes they sell there are bopelessly padded and ferociously priced. Get your sugary stuff at the Covered Bazaar instead.

Photograph: JHC Wilson/Rupert Harding Picture Librar,



World Offers.
Flight prices from:

French Alps £139 rtn

New York £199 rtn

For thousands of World Offers call us now on: 0345 222111 Book by 10th December '97.

WORLD OFFERS **BRITISH AIRWAYS** The world's favourite airline

Caribbean

Tel 0181 891 2222 📆

**NEW** 

**ENGLAND** 

FREE 116 PAGE BROCHURE (0990) 143686 (24 Hrs.) Quote Ref. A138.

**OVERSEAS, UK** 

Winter Breaks

NORTH CYPRUS / ISTANBUL TWO CENTRE OPTION ISTANBUL CITY BREAK (1997) \$149.

0181-6887555 PRESIDENT



TURKEY FOR THINKING PEOPLE

CALL THE EXPERTS REGENT HOLIDAYS Street, Shanklin, Isle of Wight 01983 866670

ULIP HOLIDAYS ISTANBUL CITY BREAKS FROM £199 PP N. CYPRUS 7 NIGHTS FROM £399 PP FLIGHT ONLY ALSO AVAILABLE

0171 734 0484 a 0171 287 4318 perton 67-71 Oxford Street, London W1R 1RB

Cruises



29 Nights Departing January 18th



THE CRUISE ONLY SPECIALISTS 01902 845000 OPEN SAT & W/DAYS 9AM-6PM SUN 10AM-6PM 9BILBROOK ROAD, CODSALL, S. STAFFS WV8 1EU

The Affordable Luxury

Our First Christmas

Christmas Lanch: £24.00 per person

THE SPORT & CRAFT MANOR

COUNTRY HOUSE HOTELS - Supera views, foed and service.
UNIQUE CRAFT CENTRE - Full Taities - Pattery, +++++.
HEATED Pools, Sense, Badminton, Smooter,
Archesty, Bowls, Team's INDOGRS & FREE,
OUTDOOR Bowls, Team's INDOGRS & FREE
FREE GOLF on 2 x 18 Hele Lung Courses +
18 Hele PAR 3. Driving Range. Gelf Cars.
Line Dancing, Skitties, Live Meelc ++

GOLF 18 GOLF 18 GOLF 18

NOV 1 to DEC 23 - 1 Night FREE Midwk + FREE Leach

PARTY RATES, JANUARY + FEBRUARY - Special Breaks MID MARCH - 4 No. Midwik £127/157; 3No. £114/123. DBB

MANOR HOUSE & ASHBURY HOTELS, W. DEVON XMAS/NEW YEAR 3/4 NTS £257/£349 - 01837 53053

Quote Ref IND

Festive Breaks

AND AND AND AND AND AND

Our newly opened hotel will celebrate Christmas offering the following packages:

Based on two people sharing tincludes Accommodation, daily English breakfast and all meals on Christmas

Office Parties (3rd-24th Dec from 12 noon-2 pm) £14.95 per person For more information, or bookings please call the Sales Department on

Day with a lively atmosphere, crackers, hats and novelties plus a visit from Santa:

0181 563 8855 or write to: Vencourt Hotel, 255 King Street, Hammersmith W6 0RF

TOWN COME COME COME COME

3 nights (24-27/12) £41.50 per person per night

4 nights (24-28/12) £37.50 per person per night 5 aights (24-29/12) £35.00 per person per might

£149 £189 £219

0171 287 511 STANBUL

**<u>STURKEU</u>** lays to remen from the specialists

Our 21st year 0171-935 6961

TURKEY AND N. CYPRUS Istanbul Citybreaks. Tailor-made & Package hols From Manchester & London. inc 2 centres. Groups Welcome. Tel: 0171 493 4243

Tissic Value 1998 Brochure
Out Now Discover a designifully
different Turkey, easy from the
mainstream, with our unife gangle
of rural cottages, wiles w. pools
and triendly hotels. Plus our field
ble wandering programme, as
interest holicays, guiet cruising
and istambul city breaks. 016:
995 6323 ABTA V1337 ATOL 1922

Balearics

Corsica



The Mediterronean's best-kept secret, an island of glarious beaches and speciacular mountains, maarnished by man iges, mountain auber relish hatels, plus fle 0181 995 9323 AFEL VISES ATOL 1922 ATTO

specialist. Lovely range of virias, cottages, apris 2 hotels. Very triendly, personal service. Tel: 01424 480046. ATOL 2647 ATTO.

VENCOUST BOTTEL

HIGHLAND HIDEAWAYS: Selection of private s/c cottages and houses avail for Xrest/New Year weeks and short breeks. Tel. 01463 232855

UK Travel

Nelcome

NEW 1998

DISCOUNTS FOR

Airport Parking

VPETS GO FREE

Toise €159 tum £149 Allew York **†** Toroxdo tena €159 for €149 🕈 Ottawa figna £159. **+** Montreal <sub>Бена</sub> £149 hee £263 \*Washington teen €169 **★** Varacouver ton €169 **★Orbando** € £179 NEW YORK £159 **≥==**£189 top £226 \*1200 tou (24) im [24] \*Los Arades eclipse #Sen Francisco incer (261

Take Off

City Breaks

AMSTERDAM ISTANBUL 2-£1294-£159 \*£139 5\*£229 direct line citybranks 0181 239 8000

euro tours with Brussels 5 Star! Paris £139

AWAY BREAKS PARIS FRE119 PP MSTERDAM FR £129 PP NTS B&B BLOCE SIAL 4+

0114 266 8806 SPECIALS Flights fr. £79 rts ry Chy Breaks & Car Histonolist ropeur 1997 Brochuse uni NOA

THE INDEPENDENT Newspaper Publishing pic regrets that atthough every assonable precaution is take no responsibility can be epised for flights and/or commodation offered igh these columns, or an erising therefrom. Real are advised to take all tering into any travel arrensemble

SERMANY - Daily low cost flights and hotel accommodation, All major credit cards. Please cal German Travel Centre 0181 429 2900. ASTA ATOL 2977 IATA.

ove & empty beaches. Discoversion: Crete from s/c ville; suses. Tel 0181 760 0879 ATC GREEK ISLANUS CLUB. 1896
Prochuse restures the best hidesway villes in the localen & Sporades Hannel Tet (1932 22047)
ABTA AITO ATOL B48
SIMPLY CRETE 1998 Brochuse Out
Now, Escape the mainstneam and
experience the real Crete.
Restored country cottages, villetwith private pools, quality appriments and family-run hotels. Plus

around socializing imposes as Girignano between Florence & Siene. 1988 broch. 0181-422-9218 STALY-LECCE-PUGLIA. Flat k S.TALY-LECCE-PUGLIA. Fair in recently restored, neo-classic vitia, steeps 2, available all year fel (632 35131) additional country vitia apartment with pool and flexible, fly-drive hobitage leaturing clasming, but mate hobitage and short breaks to Florence. Please call 0161 995 3323 ABTA V1337 ATOL 1922 ATO

CRUISES FRºM £999 See our new 1998 brochure for bargain city

Eastern Europe

breaks starting at just £369. Alternatively, you may wish to take a special twin centre city break to Moscow and St Petersburg, or a river cruise from £999. In 1998 make your ordinary holiday extraordinary. Visit Russia with the specialist, Intourist Travel. Call us now for more details.

0171 538 8600 0161 834 0230 0141 204 5809

Intourist

Now you can. ALE VIENNA BUDAPEST & CZECH REPUBLIC, Hungary Raids. Central pensions, late Carchers (01706) kis, Romania and Vienus. Wide & costs Carchers (01706)

AUST HUNGARY from Hungarians who know. City breaks and much more. Broch Avail. Call 0171 287 4889 ATOL 3703. Spain Italy SPAIN

Traditional country house villas and apartment many with pools in rura Spain & Porings in Italy's pretriest regions.
SEE COLOUR BROCHUSH ROSE
(0990) W3683 QUOTE 1053 VACANZE IN ITALIA

SCAPE THE WINTER In Andaly with pools in unspolit areas Catalunya and Andehucis const. 1998 Brochura. 0195 in unspoilt op-ecapes, pretty who lages, Headwater AITO 2412 ATCL

CAMPING SAFARIS FOR THE ADVENTUROUS 3 weeks to 7 months, from 3 weeks to 7 months, from 5300 ihroughout Africa in our refuge, specious, overland vehicles. Travel off the beaten track with us. For our brochure tel: 0171 731 6142 Engl: rudeshca@zambezi.demon.co.uk

SOUTH AFRICAN CAPE TOWN WINELANDS GARDEN ROUTE NATAL A unique selection of Classic

Hotels, Game Reserves and Charming Homes & Gardens Fly-drive with direct Bights to Durb South African Affair ATOL 2334 5/7 Humbolt Read, London WG SQN

0171-381 5222

Portugal Portuga

facinating country, from the More and the Dours to the leaser-known Algaret. Plan facility Wandering 0181 995 9323

PORTUGUESE Affair Quality villes along the

AFRICA 1 - 10 WEEKS OVERLAND SAFARIS CALL FOR BROCHURE 01233 211555

CUBA

AFRICA The experts on Tanzania Screngeti. Ngorongoro, Lake Manyara, Selous & Zanzibar Flights, Sefens, Luxery Lody Hotels, Coastal Extensions

Tallor made to sait your needs 0171 388 4163 MCTORIA FALLS - Adventure capital of Africa + Okarango Delia + South Africa's best game reserves. Your last channon to get avery from the manddening crowds with Wilderness and River Salaria 01584 890 540 Atol 4517.

South Africa

رون

Scotland

MINHO ALGARVE SINTRA ALENTEJO 0171-385 4775

NEW ENGLAND VACATIONS - Dis-trictive inns & territy homes, non-stop flights to Boston, brochure Line: 01727 852211. Fully bonded, ABTA VS164 AITO ATOL 2976. South America Saturday 22nd November The Independent will be featuring South America

within the travel pages of the Time off. To reserve your advertisement call the Travel Team on:

> 0171 293 2222

SEOCHURE



Meet The Stars

BRITANNIA HOTEL Adjoining the Cathedral - Covenity 81203 633733 BRITANNIA HOTEL Portland Street, Manchester 0161 228 2288

THE ROYAL COURT HOTEL
Krosky, Coecotry
01283 334171 BRITANNIA SACHAS HOTEL Paradily, Manchestr 9161 228 1234 RITANNIA COUNTRY HOUSE BRITANNIA HOTEL
Lehield Suret. Webschungsted
61992 429922
THE INTERNATIONAL HOTEL
Mark Wall London E14 951
9171 712 8100 0161 434 3411 BRITANNIA HOTEL the Peak Cirtuid - Sw 0161 938 1006

9177 TIZ 9106
THE CLIVE HOTEL
Homework Limber
9171 596 2233
EUROPA HOTEL
Ganiel Amber, Wed Same
91293 88666
THE ROYAL ALBION HOTEL
On the Protes Braines, East Survey
91273 325202 BRITANNIA ASHLEY HOTEL Picturages Village Halt Chesters 0161 928 3794 BOSWORTH HALL HOTEL to the country - Market Bessearth BRITANNIA HOTEL 9121 631 3331

Golfing Sconner House Hote.

Scuffand, Nordsmalterland, Luites,
Dales, North York, Moors, Peales,
Wales, East Anglia, Kent, Sasses, a
Cotsmolds, Doenel, Iale of Wight,
West Country + Irriansi – prices
Jess than UK even incl. lessy 22. 01756 702200 Free Golf in Cornwall !! Stay in 17th Century Georgian Manor House, Ensuite Accommidation. English Country Cottages Superb Cuisine. AN UNEIVALLED
choice in England's
loveliest areas
Free 436 page
colour brochure. £39 DB&B RING (0990) 851111 QUOTE EWAYA CARE **■**01503 230297↓

Holidays Afloat UK BRITAIN'S BEST Self Drive Ner-rowboat Holidays. Widest choice. Beginners very welcome. Tel 01905 726625.

BEAUTIFUL WATERWAY: Surrey Hants. Lur bosts. (01256 703691. OCTOBER SPECIAL offers. Slow down on our search winning canel boats. Short breaks a specialty. For Brochure Tel: (0121) 4452909. SRITAIN'S BEST Self Drive Nar-rowboat Holidays, Widest choice. Beginners very watcome. Tel 01905 810097.

CASHEL HOUSE HOTEL, Con-negara, Co. Galvay, Restorative breaks. Free broch. Tel: 90353.95.31001. Fex. 31077

Don't for et to mention & The Independent? when replying to adverts

Railway Tours Ammonomonomonomonomonomonomonomono

Post-Time Roll Ltd., 116 Trent Volley Road, Lichfield, Staffs WS13 6EU Telephone: 01543 411971 Fax: 01543 417531 A Steamin' Good Day Out The Chester Chuffer

13th December, 1997

Relive the magic of Steam as a mighty Magail from the steam age.

pulls a train of heritage carriages to the historic walled City of

Chester.

Travel in reserved seats on board a private train from the following stations: London Euston, Wattord Junction, Milton Keynes, Northampton, Rugby, Birmingham International and Wolverhampton.

Relax and enjoy the unfolding scenery from an unusual mode of travel — experience the waves from disbelieving bystanders Time to spend in Chester, giving an opportunity to look for that unusual Christmas Gift Unique Complimentary Information Pack

Three different classes of travel available Prices start from as little as £42,50 return Spoil yourself in the luxury of Premier Class, with tull silver service at seat dining, by our attentive stewards for £95.00 including Great British Breaklast, Light Lunch and a Three Course Dinner. Special Fores available for Juniors and Families.

Telephone Post-Time Roll on 01543 411971 for Credit Cord. Bookings and or further information on this and other tours. 

West Country



This 18th Century Manor House Hotel with its 21st Century Country Club facilities provides the perfect location to escape from it all. Set in 82 acres of gardens and woodlands with panoramic views of the Limpley Stoke Valley, its a tranquil oasis just 2 miles from the Georgian splendours of Bath.

Hosting 2 restaurants, beauty rooms, fully equipped gymnasium, hydro spa beds, sauna, steam room and other leisure activities it truly is the ideal retreat for uninterrupted relaxation.

01225 834644



Wiltshire LACOCK, 12 miles Beth. Ch house 5. Cyder house, S 4, Broc: 01249 730244.

To advertise in this section please telephone the Travel Team on 0171 - 293 2222

Yorkshire & The Dales

DALES BEAUTIFUL RENNOVATED Stone Barns, Sleep 4 to 17, pots welcome, brochure 0800 854309. SUPERB cottages. Yorks Dales, Northambria. Lakes. Peaks. Sykas Cottages 01244 345700. www.jfbr.co.uk/sykes VORKSHIRE DALES, Moore & Coast. Over 200 s/c cotts. Brochure (01756) 700872. YORK OVER 30% OFF. 2 star Heworth Court Hotel. Broch 01904 425166.

West Sussex A The Selham Country A House Hotel & Restaurant SELF CATERING CONTLAND CONSULT THE EXPERTS (Ner 2,000 properties.

Christmas

& New Year

01798-867373

PEMBROKESHIRE

Pembrokeshire Coase Park. All properties furnishe to the highest standards.

Phone now for free contain 101239-881397 College

555 COTTAGES/FARMHOUSES throughout Wales; all Tourist Board Graded, Wales Holidays -01886 625267

0 1696 623287
BHECON BEACONS. Over 100 s/c
cottages some sleep upto 30.
Many less than £250 per week
high season. Tel 01874 676446
555 COTTAGES/FARMHOUSES
throughout Wales; ell Tourist
Board Graded. Wales Holldsys.

01686 625267
"EMBRONESHIRE cottage. Water-way view. Into nearby. Exochure Tel. (01437) 62395 any term 30/WER Idyllic 17C tarmhouse in 200 acres, spectaculor views, ensuita, BS&EM 627, 16: ber, AARAC, Broch 01259 595840 SMMWTANIA. Creating. Licen

- T

A STATE OF THE PARTY OF THE PAR

10% discount on all the Cameura City of Cameura & approximately 4 miles from Glorious Goddwood. En-unite rousts with all facilities. Superb Restaurant, Licensed Lounge Bur. Special westernd & mid week breaks over 2 days £50 pp pa DR&B (min 2 people) inclusive of A La Carte Messu. 0131 full by Dec 1st. 226 4364 Broch. Mackays - Lagence Now booking

Country Cottages in Scotland EXCEPTIONAL holiday properties in the most eautiful areas of Scotland FREE BI PAGE BROCHURE RING (0990) 851133 QUOTE SW2C7 (24 Hm)

FOINBURGH CENTRAL FLAT, 4 EDINBURGH CENTRAL FLAL 4 bod sleeps 8, 2 baths, sufaming pool 8 private parking, gym 8 sausa. Wiend Friday-Monday 5245, also some weeks available. 01568 215314.

01668 215314.
EDINBURGH CENTRAL FLAT, 4
bod sleeps 8, 2 baths, swimming
pool 8 private parking, gym 8
sauna Wrond Friday-Monday
C245, biso somo weeks avallatibe,
01668 215314
SCOTLAND'S WELCOME Contages 1998 colour brochure.
Phono now !! 01756 702213

Shropshire ABSOLUTELY FABULOUS Geo

SNOWDONIA Coastline Lleyn Peninsula Coastel & Country cot-tages & farmhouses. Netyn Holi-days 01758 720674.

For a unique range of real holidays that are fully-bonded, flexible and definitely original book AITO!

For a FREE copy of the AITO Directory listing all member companies, please telephone 0181 607 9080

مكذا من الاعبل

Self Catering UK HOSEASONS COUNTRY COTTAGES

Hand picked contains

throughout Britain. Coastal and country-ide.

Free colour brochure.

Telephone 35314750888 Fux 35314750908 Email info@graftonplaza.ie Internet www.graftonplaza.ie Autumn Breaks

**GRAFTON** 

Affordable luxury in the heart of Dubli

Let two minutes walk from Grafton Street Contact us for our special Christmas

and New Year packages

PORT ISAAC / ROCK AREA. Cosy. snungely cott with open fire, sips up to 4. Avail over Xmes & NY. £300 psr, £140 other times. 0181 876 1745 Cotswolds

GREAT VALUE quality cottages Over 160 in The Cotswolds 01282 445721 (UC102). Devon & Cornwall

DEVON CONNECTION, Lizury
Barris, pool, ber. Tel 01548560994
FOWEY/POLINIAN. Charming
waterside cottages. Superb
views. Central Heating. Disghies
available. Pets welcome. 01579
344667

available. Pels welcome. Units 3
344857
"DEVON CONNECTION: Cottages, barns, houses, tel 01548 560 984. A FINE SELECTION of Cottages on both counts of Corresell and on Scilly, 1938 Brochure now available from Comish Tracidorel Cottages. (9930) 134867. 7 day personal service sem-spm.
GREAT VALUE quality cottages. Over 430 in Devon. 01282 445721

Northumbria ENGLISH WANDERER New Year Walking Breaks & Weekends. Brochure: 01740 853169. ACTIVITY CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR BREAKS ACORN ACTIVITY CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR BREAKS ACORN ACTIVITY TIES TEL: 01432 830033 SUPERB cottages. Northumbris. York Dates. Lakes, Peaks. Sykes Cottages 01234 345700. www.jhs.co.uk/eykes NORTHUMBRIS BYWAYS S/C Cottages. Lowely locs. 01228573337.

Country Cottages HEATHROW \$4.95 per day. Free parking sites 14 days. Max charge \$59.30 up to 100 days Secure Parking \$181 \$13 \$130 in Ireland A MAGICAL choice of delightful holiday properties in Kerry, Cork, Clare & Galway. East Anglia Free full colour brocht RING (0990) 851166 NORFOLK / SUFFOLICS Welcom

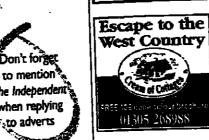
RING (0990) 851166 QUOTE GWIN (24 Mm) COMMIN W COMMIN W COMMIN OF MERICA DEPT. GWIN, P. D. RE, IS EAST SERVEN. LOCKETS, LEVEN. Isle of Wight NOVEMBER SPECIAL 3 NIGHTS FROM £79 3 NIGHTS FROM 279
Bed, Breislichet und overing men
Large senfront batel
enterlaument, indeor prol.
Jacuzzi, sonna.
"Free CAR FERRY"
Sendringham Hotel
Sonfrom, Sandron, Isle of Wight
Tel: 01983 406655
CHEISTHAS BROCHURE
NOW AVAILABLE

The Lake District HILTHWAITE HOUSE, Windermers, Thombarrow Road, overlooking lake. All rooms errains
(some with lacurat baths Steinlime TV. learnaking, Saune, Tylo
Steam Room and hassed indoor
pool solely for our guests' use.
2nights. Scourse dimer 838
incl. VAT only 128, 3nights only
130. Brochure. 013394 43935
LAKE DISTRICT WELCOME. Coltages. 1998 colour brochure.

PAMPROCK Cottages, 286 salect Individual cottages in superb locations. Disc Pares. ATO. Col Bro 01223 681090

STEAL AWAY AND HIDE from the scorict Cashel House Hotel, Commercer Co. Galvay. Pres brockt0003539531001 ISH COUNTRY HOLDDAYS 1996

RISH COUNTRY HOLLIANS 1886-the premier choice, 300 includ-sal cottages all tourist board approved. Farmhouses and hotels, boating holidays and horse drawn caravans. Many wa-come pets. Call 01502 560 888 (24 hrs).



## 5/EUROPE



## CALDER

Ronnie Biggs signs autographs with a flourish and the phrase "My kind of luck". The real reason Brazil's Supreme Court has just agreed that the Great Train Robber can live out his days in Rio was in case he couldn't afford to leave the country. On Monday this week, travellers about to leave Brazil found the country's departure tax had multiplied five-fold from £11 to £55.

The new rule is intended to persuade residents (such as Mr Biggs) to holiday at home, but it may also be used as a revenue-raising device to fleece foreigners iust like Britain's Air Passenger Duty. Rumours among airlines and agents have been rife all week about when the tax hike might be applied, and to whom. Some believe all passengers are being clobbered with immediate effect, while others have been told that only locals will be affected and that New Year's Day is the chosen date. Brazil's airports tend to be lively places at the best of time. The effects of this increase in creating yet

more chaos do not bear thinking about. A favourite technique among travellers to countries with exciteable economies is to bury the departure tax in a spare sock and spend every last cruzeiro, cruzado or real (a few of the currencies that Brazil has tried in the past decade) before the journey home. What happens when you turn up at Rio airport only to find the tax has increased by a factor of five, and that you are £44 short? Three suggestions in increasing order of desperation: (a) borrow the cash from a fellow traveller; (b) wait until your permitted stay expires and ask to be deported; or (c) investigate whether any Brazilian trains are known to carry large quantities of used banknotes.

Brazil is one of dozens of nations spending a small fortune on a presence at the World Travel Market which takes place in London this coming week. Another is Kenya, a country which has not been getting the best press possible in the last three months. To quote the Foreign Office: "Since mid-August there have been a number of violent incidents in Coast Province, in which local people have been killed and properties burned ... game reserves and other tourist areas are generally safe but muggings and armed attacks can occur anywhere and at any time."

Tourism authorities usually work hard to counteract the fall in visitor numbers that can result from advice like that. Croatia, for example, has just announced that it will subsidise charter flights from the UK next summer.

Kenya, though, has just added around 10 per cent to the cost of a holiday. Starting today, British visitors need a visa to visit the East African country. The good news is that you can get it at the airport when you arrive, as well as at the High Commission in London; the bad news is that a single entry visa costs £35 (the goodish news is that this is a fiver less than the figure first announced on Wednesday).

The Immigration Department in Nairobi says the move is a response to the British government's decision, last year, to charge Kenyans for UK visas. Lots of other countries, from Turkey to the Dominican Republic, have implemented such reciprocal charges after the UK has changed the rules in what many feel has been an arbitrary and clumsy way. But the timing and cost of Kenya's new layer of bureaucracy is astonishing.

It comes a fortnight after Britain's Air Passenger Duty doubled. The combined effect of the increase is sure to make make travellers cross Kenya off the Christmas holiday list. Before 1 November, you would have handed £22 direct to the UK and Kenyan government in taxes. From today, that amount more than triples to £67. A side-trip to Zanz-

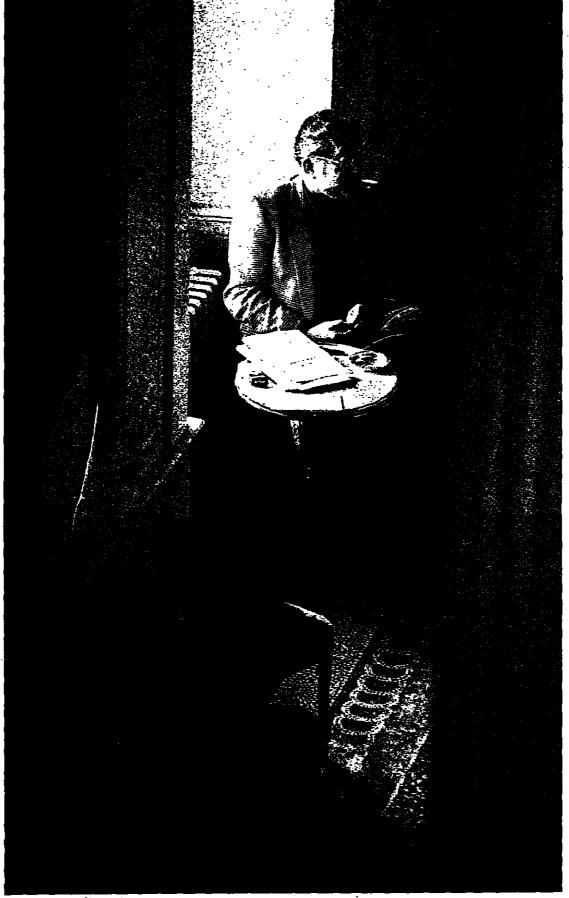
ibar adds another £62. Yesterday Thomson Direct (0990 502580) offered me a week's holiday in Majorca, departing this morning and staying in a good self-catering apartment, for exactly that total: £129, including tax.

Next March, the London Docklands Development Corporation gets statuarily wound up. Until then, it seems to be doing its utmost to winding up tourists.

At the tourist information centre in Docklands in east London, you are given a map showing the Thames Path along the north shore, for example. As a piece of tourism infrastructure, this trail is fairly flawed: for almost all its length it's not a path and there's no view of the Thames. Any tourists attempting to follow the map would find themselves

up Bow Creek without a paddle. The Docklands Experience gets stranger still when you watch the video extolling the region's virtues. You are given the surprising news that Canary Wharf is as close to the Bank of England as is Oxford Circus. Not only is this surprising, it is also completely incorrect. However you measure it, Canary Wharf is at least a mile further away.





In Ménilmontant you join the French in their favourite pastime of posing with style Photos Geraint Lewis

## The hippest bar hop Paris can offer

The coolest parts of Paris are, of course, where the hippest locais congregate. Kate Mikhail offers a guide with street cred.

A weekend in Paris can easily turn into a long, extended bar and café crawl, with the odd gallery thrown in. Nothing wrong with that - but the problem is where to go to avoid other tourists, pay reasonable prices for your demis and mingle with the local in-crowd.

Bastille is no longer à la mode and a suggested night out there will probably earn you a scathing sneer from Parisian trendies. They, meanwhile, prefer to head further north and east, And it's in Ménilmontant, armed with a nonchalant attitude and a confident pout, that you can join the French in their favourite pastime of surroundings.

If you're planning a night of serious drinking, it may be a good idea to line your stomach in nearby Belleville, one of the most colourful and interesting quartiers; it is home to a large north-African population and Paris's second Chinatown though a large number of the restaurants are, in fact, Vietnamese. The Dong Huong and Tin Tin Vietnamese restaurants are particularly good, and if your French is a little rusty the Tin Tin has a photo display in the window showing the dishes on offer.

Relaxed and well fed, you proceed to the bars. Ménilmontant is about a 10-minute welk away from Belleville: just enough time to work up

RED CHANNEL

train averaging 1 mph.

The compiler of the Railway Gazette International survey, Colin

Taylor, warns that speed freaks heading for Nepal and Eritrea

are likely to be disappointed. Dr Taylor computes the fastest

trains in all the world's nations with railways. It is possible,

trains. He believes that the winner/loser is Nepal where the

journey - about half the speed of a city cyclist. Dr Taylor said

(though a cynic might say that, at such a low speed, it would

be tricky to tell), in which case Eritrea takes the prize with a

Dr Taylor was speaking at King's Cross station in London.

where he was launching an attempt at the world's longest rail

hazards threatening to derail the 11,000-mile trip are flooding

on the German/Polish border, strikes and random cancellations.

journey, from Vila Real on the Portuguese Algarve to the

Vietnamese capital, Ho Chi Minh City. Among the many

Leaves on the line are not expected to be a problem.

therefore, to assess the countries with the slowest fastest

fastest express averages just 6.5mph during a 90-minute

yesterday that he believed it may have stopped running

Head south and take a left along rue St Maur, which will a handful of regular cuslead you all the way to rue tomers. Now, after careful Ménilmontant

Oberkampf, the new-found restoration, it is generally centre of Paris's night-life. The walk will take you

through a busy residential area, which is rarely quiet. The local bars - as ubiquitous as the dog excrement that covers the pavements of Paris - are just that, extremely local. I can never resist peering in, and am never disappointed. The last time I took this walk I saw two elderly women, both 80 if they were a day, with white hair piled high and lipstick perfectly applied, sitting at a bar. deep in conversation with the barman, ready, it seemed, for a long night ahead. As you approach rue

Oberkampf, one bar on the right-hand side of the road stands out, or rather, its warm, colourful interior draws you in. Les Couleurs is a wannabe squat bar, with posters and flyers Sellotaped to walls that are genuinely distressed. Coloured fairy lights wander over the ceiling, and candles drip from walls and tables. It is a relaxed bar, and the dress is about as casual as things get for Paris: the huge hole in the underarm of the owner's T-shirt is a proud display of down-dressing. Banquettes and chairs are grouped around small tables and if you want to start the evening slowly, you can settle down to a mint tea and

game of backgammon. A short walk on from here, further down rue St Maur and left on to rue Oberkampf, you will find the Café Charbon, one of the first bars to make its mark as Ménilmontant established itself as the place to be. The Charbon dates back to 1886 when it was a café théâtre. A few years ago, it was just a large, dark and dusty bar with a couple of billiard tables and

crammed in the evenings and it's a lively place to pass

a Sunday afternoon. A young, well-heeled group, with an alarmingly high proportion of small goatee beards, crowd along the bar which is overhung by oldfashioned gas lamps, and staffed by hyper and not over-friendly staff. At the weekend, there's a DJ who plays acid jazz and flirts with passing customers.

The food, served until 11pm, is considered very good, and at 30F for starters and 50F for main courses it is not overpriced. The Charbon also does a good line in cocktails for 38F-40F, which is cheap by Paris standards. Across the road, La Mercerie is a lighter, brighter bar, with orange, rough-sponged walls, and Latin jazz on the

Paris bars shut down at 2am and last orders are called a good 10 minutes before that - but don't despair. you can always head off to the sleaze of Pigalle or one of the large, all-night café bars such as that in Place de la République, where you can stay all night and enjoy a final nightcap as Parisians wander in for a coffee and chaser for breakfast.

restuurants, rue Louis Bonnet, I Ith arrondissement – Metro stop Belleville (booking not necessary, but last orders 10pm-10.30pm). Les Couleurs (00 33 1 43 57 95 61), 117 Rue Saint Maur,

Don- Huong and Tin Tin

11th arrondissement - Metro stop Ménilmontant, Café Charbon (00 33 1 43 57 55 13). 109 rue Oberkampf, 11th arrondissement - Metro

stop Ménilmontant. La Mercerie (00 33 1 43 38 81 30), 98 rue Oberkampf, 11th arrondissement - Metro stop

#### A tale of Roman traffic and divine intervention

A new collection of travellers' tales celebrates the highs and lows of life on the road. From a field of 3,000 entries, editor Dan Hiscocks selected III for inclusion - among them, Marshall Young's winning story of lost

innocence in Italy.

I was 20. It was my first time in Rome. It was my first time abroad. In theory it was a college study trip; in reality it was more a chance to soak up the atmosphere (and a little Lambrusco) of a foreign land. After three days, our group had already "done" the usual tourist sites. At the end of a hard day's slog around the Vatican, I had struck out on my own and was wandering the streets with no direction in mind - just beguiled by the very novelty of it all.

By now it was rush hour. The streets were noisy and fume-filled. As walked along, a line of nuns approached me. There were about 10 of them, seemingly arranged in order of height like a set of living Russian dolls - though not very living; the youngest looked about 70. As we came together on the pavement, the leader of the troupe (herd? gaggle? what is the collective term for nuns?) held out her arm and spoke to me. My Italian

does not stretch much beyond "Una bora, per favore," so I had no idea what this wizened lady was saying. I gave my best Gallic shrug.

Not satisfied with this, she merely repeated herself, this time a little more insistently.

said lamely. Clearly this was not what she

"Sorry, I'm English ... inglese," I

out her wrinkled arm, she gave me a shove (a firm shove) towards the traffic. I could not understand what was going on. Seeing my look of bewilderment, she pushed again, with much unintelligible gesticulation, until I had one foot off the pavement.

considered a valid excuse. Stretching

With the third shove I finally got the message: she wanted help in

crossing the road. She wanted me, the archetypal innocent abroad, to walk into four lanes of Italian rush-hour traffic and somehow hold it back while the nuns crossed to the other side.

For a second I considered doing a runner, but the stony glare from the indomitable lady left me little choice -I had to give it a go. I stepped hesitantly on to the Tarmac and edged into the traffic with arms outstretched. Maybe it was the sheer incongruity of a lanky, tweed-jacketed figure amidst the speeding cars, or maybe the drivers were simply bewildered that anyone could be stupid enough to try such a

thing - but it worked. The cars stopped. Like a modernday Moses, I held back a sea of honking Fiats and buzzing Vespas. trate drivers leaned on horns and hung out of car windows, gesturing madly, but still I held my ground. Even pedestrian crossings offer little immunity from Italian drivers; they merely weave around you; so looking back, I suppose my "miracle" had more to do with the presence of the tuns than anything I had done running over a lady of the cross must be a sure bet for eternal damnation. Anyway, the nuns hobbled across

the street and went on their way without so much as a "Grazie". As the last sandalled foot mounted the far pavement, I raced for the sanctuary of the kerb and the traffic flowed once again. Even today, 15 years later, I still flinch if I see a nun coming towards me in the street.

'Travellers' Tales from Heaven and Hell'. price £6.99, is published this week by Travellerseye, 30 St Mary's Street Bridgnorth, Shropshire WV16 4DW.

#### GREEN CHANNEL

Trains are kinder to the world than cars, so the fact that railways around the world are accelerating is good news. The 1997 World Rail Speed Survey published by Railway Gazette international shows Japan has stolen the fastest train tide from France with the new bullet train. It travels between Hiroshima and Kokura at an average speed of 162.7mph.

France reverts to second place for the first time since TGV services between Paris and Lyon were launched in 1983. The current fastest train in France averages 158mph, between Lille and Charles de Gaulle airport. Climbing rapidly to third place are cross-border high-speed trains, such as Thalys between France and Belgium, Cisalpino between Italy and Switzerland, and Eurostar between Britain and France.

While in the UK, Eurostar is limited to 100mph. Britain's best efforts are on the Great North Eastern Railway, which limps in sixth with 10mph for the London-York run, and on Great Western's London-Bristol corridor. Not far behind, and catching up fast, are Poland (in 13th place), China (15th) and Saudi Arabia (16th).



## Coming (almost) full circle

This week a 'new' prehistoric creation was discovered near Bristol. But there is much more to see along the road at Avebury. Though our predecessors left barely a standing stone unturned, reports Simon Calder, what remains is still magnificent.

Here's a spooky thing. The grand megalithic shambles known as Avebury is guarded by a triangle of white horses hewn from the chalk of the Wiltshire Downs. Each is three miles distant as the pterodactyl flies. I reckon that the centre of gravity of this triangle (located, since you ask, at the point where the bisectors of the three angles meet) is the car park of the Red Lion. The truly remarkable phenomenon is that the pub stands in the middle of England's greatest Stone Age site. Absurd.

Absurd. When you wander through the pocks of prehistory around England's West Country, that word keeps recurring. Take Stonehenge, the awesomely austere circle that finds itself pincered like a prehistoric walnut between the A303 and the A344. Next Monday morning, the Culture Secretary Chris Smith visits Stonehenge to

try to crack the old chestnut of how woefully Britain neglects its ancient history. While he is in that part of the world, he could usefully head north across the pretend Cold War battlefield that is Salisbury Plain and call in at the monumental prehistoric collation at Avebury - which contains at least three of the wonders of Stone Age Britain, yet is constantly overlooked at the expense of smaller, sharper

Now another wayward sibling has returned to the fold, with the discovery seven miles south of Bristol of a prehistoric prototype for the Millennium Dome. Its discovery is a miracle of magnetometry, but ultimately the site is an exercise in virtual archaeology. For the real thing, start at the Red Lion.

And to get there, you must take the absurd A361. While it swaggers across Wiltshire from Devizes to Swindon, it cuts clean through the middle of a huge henge (this term denotes a rampart of earth surrounding a moat; if you think about it, an unlikely arrangement for the purposes of defence, so there must have been a more cerebral cause for its construction). The visitor who pauses at the Red Lion will reel at the sight of the largest stone circle in

Or, at least, the remains of it. Carving initials in a standing stone at Stonehenge is not quite in the same league as the desecration that has been wrought upon the monoliths that are ranged around a threequarter-mile circumference. The survivors are magnificent: tall, lean shafts of ragged stone exploding from grass chewed smooth by a platoon of sheep, interspersed with plumper, dumpier slabs of rock that bulge in several competing directions at once. Each weighs perhaps 20, 40, even 60 tons. The tragedy is that so few remain.

No barbed wire separates the visitor from the stones; tourism is not the culprit. Originally the circle comprised a congregation of 98, which survived for about four millennia until the meddlesome Middle Ages. Many of the stones were toppled in the name of God; others fell in a frenzy of recycling, when 18th-century speculators devised a way to turn prehistoric pagan-

ism into profit. First dig a pit, adjacent to your chosen victim. Fill it with sticks and straw. Get the brawniest locals to topple the stone into its grave. Start a fire beneath it, then batter with sledgehammers. Best of all, alternately heat and cool it. Then haul off

the material to build cottages. Which is why, like a set of pre-NHS

teeth, the ring is full of stumpy little gaps (or gappy little stumps). The man we have to thank for there being anything much left on show is a marmalade magnate.

Alexander Keiller used much of his family fortune to become involved in a more profound (and in many ways much stickier) form of preservation than jam. In the philistine 1930s, he was appalled at the way so significant a site could be abused. So he bought up the whole village, and demoiished some of the cottages in order to preserve the continuity of the circle. Tablets mourning missing monoliths were placed where once they had stood.

A fine museum, bearing our marnalade man's name, occupies an outbuilding belonging to the expansive Avebury Manor. The museum is not large, and does not seem to be haunted, but it has a permanent resident. Charlie, or Charlotte, is a three- or four-year-old child who died thousands of years ago. (S)he was found ceremoniously and lovingly interred, as if merely sleeping.

West Kennet Avenue sounds like a road on a housing estate on the fringes of Swindon. It is, in fact, an ancient way that wends unsteadily against the contours to the south, staccato stones marking its course with an appropriate approximation.

After a mile it loses the battle with the A4, a much greater west road. But hop across the fence and you can ascend, through fields of winter crops bruised and battered by November, to a thunderously

Linford Christie could sprint along the top of the West Kennet Long Barrow in 10 seconds. It resembles a Nissen but that has been buried beneath layers of turf for greater invisibility, but is another megalithic curiosity - a burial place as intricate, in its own way, as the pyramids. One big difference was that the remains of the chosen affled around every so often Ancestor worship seems to have been genuinely a moveable feast. You can enter the first few chambers and wonder at the brave

Britons who built it. Looking northwest from West Kennet,

you just wonder. What possessed a people scraping a living from these downs to create an additional hill, sticking out like a sore tomb from the gentle rolls of Wiltshire. No one knows quite the purpose of Silbury Hill, and several excavations have failed to find many clues.

All that can be deduced is that the construction relied upon a highly sophisticated technique of internal walls (was this Britain's entry for the world pyramid

championships, 2000BC?) and that the builders began in August - entrapped Stone Age ants give that away, since their wings sprouted only in summer.

A track spirals to the top, but is these days closed to visitors. Twenty years ago, when Silbury Hill was part of the mandatory mystical warm-up for the Glastonbury Festival, I scampered the 130 feet to the summit. The sense of wonder increases with altitude, as you gaze upon the waves of Wiltshire galloping off towards those sentinel white horses.

By car, Avebury is located just north of the A4 between Calne and Marlborough.

memorial LIB

parel COAST.

from 16p a day.

By public transport, the nearest sensible railway station is Swindon. From the nearby Swindon bus station, Thamesdown bus number 49 operates from Swindon approximately hourly during the day. The journey takes about half an hour and costs £1.30 each way. On Sundays, the journey is covered by Wills & Dorset service number 6.

The Alexander Keiller Museum (01672 539250) opens 10am-4pm daily. Admission is £1.50 (free to members of English Heritage and National Trust).

The Red Lion serves excellent food between noon and 2pm daily.

## We're on our way to Wembley - the Sistine Chapel of football

A tour of Wembley stadium may be a football fan's idea of heaven. But how about other members of the family who are dragged along as well? All the Muirheads, winners of a day out with 'The Independent', were unexpectedly impressed, as Alister Morgan observed.

If football stadiums, as communal places of worship, are modern-day churches, then London's Wembley stadium is the equivalent of the Vatican's Sistine Chapel.

Images of Wembley, filled with 70,000 screaming fans, are commonplace, but its daily tours attract considerably fewer visitors. For £21, a family of four can take a tour that includes lifting a replica of the Football Association Cup to a background recording of crowds roaring over the loudspeaker system.

On the day we were there, the tour group included a cosmopolitan mix of parents, foreign sightseers and football pilgrims. Mr and Mrs Muirhead took their two teenage sons. John and Neil, and signed up for the tour with only a quarter of the family fully expecting to be impressed. As an enthusiastic football fan, Neil was typical of many

visitors, but it would be fair to say that the rest of the family was equivocal.

The tour lasts around 90 minutes (the length of a football match) and provides enough variety to keep the congregation interested. It begins with a chance to decide whether Geoff Hurst's famous "goal" in the 1966 World Cup final against Germany did indeed cross the line, before leading the group into the Wembley Stadium control centre. What the tour guide doesn't know about the facility is probably not worth knowing and, in tandem with Des Lynam's smooth prerecorded interjections via video, a steady stream of facts is provided.

A short trip to the stadium cinema ithistrates the overriding sense of history. Over the years Wembley has housed much more than football matches; this glimpse into the past portrays the twin towers in the same light as Big Ben and Tower Bridge.

For Mr and Mrs Muirhead, their elder son John and other visitors who would not list football as their favourite pastime, the most successful sections of the tour were

behind the scenes. Viewing the minuscule, untidy box where Des Lynam and guests work during big games revealed the true wonder of television, while a visit to the Queen's private box was highly entertaining. The lavishly decorated room, while modest in size, set a thousand images running through the



mind. When our guide explained that one particular door led to Her Majesty's private bathroom, and then told us that we were forbidden so much as a glimpse inside, the mind began to boggle.

The non-football-loving members of the Muirhead family were visibly engaged by the tour. Despite Wembley's unimpressive location and its ugly, concrete foundations. it was hard not to be impressed by the sheer size of the venue.

"That's where Mick Jagger and the Rolling Stones performed 'Start Me Up'." the guide would point out. "This is the spot where the flame was lit during the 1948 Olympic Games in London"; "The stage

for Live Aid was over there." For football fans such as Neil, every room, seat and corridor conjures up images of countless matches watched on television. If you have attended a big game at Wembley the sounds, smells and sights (and

the outrageous prices) come flooding back. The players' changing rooms, adorned with replica England football shirts, are immaculate. As the sacred retreat of the players, you would never see pictures of these rooms on the TV, and the effect was not lost on Neil.

Fittingly, it was in this room that he plucked up courage to ask two footballers, from Tromso in Norway, for an autograph. They were playing against Chelsea FC the

Cup floweth over: Neil Muirhead lifts a replica of the FA Cup Photograph: Rui Xavier

following evening in the European Cup Winners' Cup but they had come, like pilgrims, to Wembley (if they were looking for inspiration they weren't entirely successful, as their side lost 7-1 the following night). In addition to signing their names they also took photographs of one another in the changing-rooms.

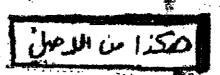
Everyone, though, was disappointed when told that they were not allowed to tread the famous Wembley turf or so much as kick a single football. "It's a bit rubbish to come all this way and not be allowed to touch a single blade of grass," was Neil's comment

But this was not enough to spoil the tour. "A surprisingly good time" was Mrs Muirhead's sporting verdict on the day's

Wembley Stadium tours (0181-902 8833) are held 10am-3pm daily except match days: adults £6.95; children and OAPs £4.95; con-

The Muirhead family was invited to participate in a day out for The Independent' after sending us their nomination for the Independent/English Tourist Board Family Holiday of the Year award. Their suggestion - The Flower House, Goongillings Cottage, Constantine, Falmouth, Comwall (01326 340630) - was announced as the winner last week.





FAX: 0171 293 2505 TEL: 0171 293 2222 **OVERSEAS** Take Off Take Off Unequivocal protection against airline insolvency - CAA approved Because we think the world of you ... 42-50 Earls Court Road . LONDON WB 6F? current best buys on the world's finest airlines TRAIL ENDERS Long Haul Travel: 0171-938 3366 For the real lowdown on worldwide 194 Kensington High Street £336 £589 द्यार द्यात travel, Trailfinders is your one stop 0171-938 3939 £336 £336 £363 PERTH BOSTON £126 £165 THE TRAVEL EXPERTS £154 £299 0171-938 3444 travel shop. 2154 2285 2254 2285 2319 2340 2325 2418 2198 2387 2178 2237 2145 2242 289 289 First & Business Class: CHICAGO **5157 5191** JO'BURG Trailfinders offers more low cost LONDON W8 6BD 215 Kensington High Street AUCKLAND) CAPE TOWN HARARE ACHROLFI £175 £231 Alghis to more destinations than 0171-937 5400 £182 £231 £182 £271 AMSTERDAM £59 FRANKFURT £93 MADRID £99 LOS ANGELES SAN FRANCISCO £272 Bangkok ne. Experts in airfares since Transatiantic & European: NAIROBI hong Kong £244 - £387 22-24 The Priory Queensway 1970, we can tailor-make your very £139 ROME £109 SINGAPORE DENVER TORONTO **PARIS** £59 VIENNA £347 DUBA! Cairo 0121-236 1234 £231 £231 Worldwide Travel: own package with up to 65% discour £424 £157 £191 on hotels and car hire worldwide. 48 Com Street £138 MILAN £109 ZURICH £102 PRAGUE E188 £299 VANCOUVER 0117-929 9000 5291 9291 Worldwide Travel: RETURN FARES EXCLUDING AIRPORT TAXES 254-284 Sauchiehall Street • FOR YOUR FREE COPY OF THE TRAILFINDER MAGAZINE Worldwide Travel: 0141-353 2224 plus discounted quality accommodation per room per night from MANCHESTER M3 2FF 58 Deansgate CALL 0171-938 3366 ANYTIME Worldwide Travel: 8161-839 6969 AUSTRALIA E36 • USA E31 • AFRICA E31 • PACIFIC E48 • ASIA E27 First & Business Class: 0161-839 3434 USA CAR HIRE FROM £12 PER DAY - CALL NOW FOR OUR TAILORMADE WORLDWIDE AND NORTH AMERICA BROCHURES ... people think the world of us! Trailfinders does not impose charges on credit cards All our travel centres are open Mon-Sat 9-6pm . Thurs 9-7pm . Sun 18-6pm Canada Exclusive Fare MOBIDAIDE LITERLE + MALAYSIA + £164 SPECIALS + BANGKOK + £589 from £789 with All your tailormade travel needs including car & campenso hire, rail and coach passes and QANTAS AIRWAYS £190 Book before 23 November, travel between 01 Jan-30 Jun 98 (excl. 3-11 Apr) to luttry, CALL NOW Departing Now - 05 Dec & 1 12 Jan - 31 Mar 98 COPY OF ANY OF OUR 2 01420-88724 or 0171-287 5556 **№** 01420-88380 or 0171-287 5559 **№** 01420-80828 or 0171-287 5558 VANCOUVER £349 Free flights som 0181 547 3322 52 Report Street, London, WIR 6DX 2050 A 6TAG 0181 546 4545 0181 546 6000 OFFICIALLY APPOINTED AGENT lity. Restrictions apply, ask for details. Direct Flights What will you do #10.0FF Florida 5220 Los Angeles 5220 WHEN YOU BOOK YOUR Las Vegas £220 Totorio £184 1/2 PRICE BRITISH AIRWAYS FLIGHTS this weekend? FROM THE SAINSBURY'S OFFER TO OVER 190 DESTINATIONS WORLDWIDE CALL NOW FOR DETAILS AND CONDITIONS\* Weed the herbaceous border? 0171 757 2600 Best Value: - Air Fares - Car Hire - Hotels - Insuran 177/178 Tottanham Court Road London W1P OLX OPEN 7 DAYS Polish the pewter? ATOL 2582 IATA ABTA DOGOG/VE Follow the wacky adventures of Compo, ANNUAL trayel insurance Foggy and Clegg? FROM £46. Take a trip to Paris or Brussels? LA SAN FRAN (r. 137 - 229 Peling...... 6419 Phulat...... 6409 March Lamper ...... 697 Paris £69 0345 Toulouse ... (107 lyon... ..... £84 303030 Brussels £65 ee an appointed travel agent Lille £59 ETHE WITHER AVEIS FROM Specials -Gran Canaria . El? Tenerife ...... El? Sensonal Saver midweek return. Thurel The.-Thur., wast include Sat. night away. Mans be purchased 3 days in advance. Non-exchangeable Non-refundable. Subject to availability. Velid until 15 December 1997. Calls charged at local rate. All calls are monitored for quality. BUDAPEST from £ 129 rtn Lacrante \_ ET funtamentes . EET Check Inn Accommodation from £ 12 ppps General Accident Alcorde Fr. 259 Deleman. 259
Marion 159 Deleman. 259
Marion 259 Marion Fr. 259
Pairn. 259 Genove letter. 259
Marion 1592 Genove letter. 259
Pairne. 259
Pairne. 259
Pairne 279
Pangide 279 HONG KONG from £235 rtm For all your flight requirement plan © Car Hirs © Airport Hotels Direct LOW COST FLIGHTS Our fares are ridiculously small. USA CANADA AUSTRALIA CALL NOW FOR DETAILS OF HUNDREDS MORE BARGARIS CHEAPEST FLIGHTS NEW ZEALAND SOUTH AMERICA £59 rtn. AMSTERDAM from 0990 014101 CARBBEAN FAR EAST £59 rtn. BELFAST\* from 0800 121 007 RO CYBRI SYRD SURCHESS THE THE BUILD STREET MUDDILE EAST AFRICA ALERTOPERIAND WORDSHOP DEST AND ABLE
ABTA MEMBERS FOR 18 YEARS
RETAL ABON FOR ATOLHOLDES 0171 436 0448 £172 rtn. 0121 698 9898 0181 943 9431 THRIFTWAY **BRUSSELS** from £59 rtn. TRAVEL 0171 - 490 1490 0990 239904 0171-713-7770 COLOGNE from £99 rtn. UNSHARE VACATIONS COPENHAGEN from £119 rtn. DRESDEN from £202 rtn. **DUBLIN from** £69 rtn. \* STA TRAVEL \* EDINBURGH\* from £59 rtn. FRANKFURT from £99 rtn. £59 rtn.



At £59.95 a year, the security of annual cover arranged by American Express is effectively yours from just 16 pence a day. To enrol,

... ::::

The second secon

call quoting reference INU27. 0800 700 737

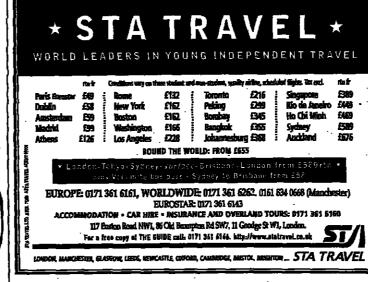
Special Interest Holidays

Simply the best for tailored holidays in:

EOTSWANA
ZAMBIA & MALAWI
MOZAMBIQUE NAMIBIA & ZIMBABWE SOUTH AFRICA TANZANIA Tel: 0181 343 3283 Tel: 0181 343 3283
Fax: 0181 343 3287
See our websites
teleprowwe also are see the see 01728 861133

Qverland Adventures Africa, Asia, India, South & Central America 2 to 37 weeks with 16 years experience Unique custom built vehicles Hetel trips & camping trips Dragoniali a











Book early and save 15% Plus Currency Exchange Offer



LOCAL SPECIALITIES AND STUNNING SCENERY.











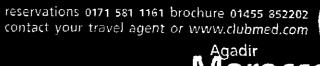
















The resort of Vail, Colorado, just a stop away from Birmingham, London and Manchester

Photograph: Tim Stand/Stockfile

a course across the **Atlantic** 

Carving

Most skiers want to reach the slopes as quickly as possible and stay there for as long as they can. So why is it that North American resorts, involving long-haul flights and big time differences, are becoming increasingly popular? Cathy Packe has some answers.

The mountains of the US began to gain in popularity a decade ago, as a dependable alternative when good snow in Europe was patchy. Once there, it is easy to see advantages. The snow is reliable, but if it doesn't arrive naturally, artificial snow is readily available. This ensures a much longer skiing season than in Europe. Also, many Americans construct their holidays piecemeal, instead of buying a package, making accommodation more flexible.

In winter it is possible to find a day's skiing almost anywhere in the northern half of North America. But the serious ski slopes are concentrated in five main areas. The best known may be the Rockies - the American states of Colorado, Wyoming, Montana and Utah - but the most popular destinations for British skiers are the Canadian Rocky Mountain resorts of Whistler and Banff, California has also become popular, encouraged by the increase in non-stop flights to Los Angeles and San Francisco. On the east coast, the resorts of Vermont and New Hampshire offer a more cosy atmosphere than the Wild West towns of Colorado, although the climate can be icy. And the fastest growing

area, challenging New England in its accessibility from Europe, is the state of Quebecand its largest resort. Mont Tremblant.

The main reason for the popularity of the Canadian Rockies - apart from the strength of the pound against the Canadian dollar - is accessibility. Banff and Whistler can be reached by direct scheduled flights to Calgary and Vancouver respectively, and this winter Britannia has introduced a twice-weekly charter to Vanconver. Direct flights confer a big advant-

age when weather conditions are difficult. Many of the holidays on offer have some element of flexibility. Some are tailor-made. Neilson is one of several operators to allow a ski package to be booked without any flights at all, which means that you can add a few days' skiing to a business trip or a visit to friends. Others allow a city stopover, Boston and Vancouver being among the most popular choices; and some offer twocentre holidays, combining a Canadian and an American resort. Crystal allows you to

drive between Quebec and New England, or to fly between Rocky Mountain resorts. Virgin Ski offers a combination of skiing and a completely different activity: Tall Buildings and Tall Mountains, for example, takes in Boston and the New Hampshire resorts. And for the first time, Ski the American Dream is offering add-on holidays from Denver to Hawaii, Florida, Arizona and Mexico.

Ski safaris, which offer skiing in several resorts in the course of the same holiday, are being promoted in Canada by various operators. Ski Independence's five sufaris depart on specified dates and allow the participants, who need to be to be skiers of at least intermediate level, to ski up to nine different areas during the 15-day trip.

Not only are there more flights to Canada this year; more Canadian resorts are available to package tourists. Frontier Ski and Ski Safari are both offering holidays in Fernie, a small resort well known in British Columbia, but so far more or less untouched by the international market.

As the Canadian market continues to expand, many operators are also promoting more US destinations. SkiWorld and Neilson are both offering the New England resorts of Killington and Stowe; Crystal has holidays in Crested Butte and Telluride: and this is the first season for Thomson in Aspen and its neighbour Snowmass.

Colorado resorts will also benefit from a new charter service this year. Monarch Airlines is now flying into Denver every Wednesday and Saturday. Direct scheduled flights between Denver and the UK ended three years ago when the city's new airport demanded higher landing fees. Now the airport at Vail is muscling in, offering overnight onestop connections on American Airlines from Birmingham, London and Manchester.

Smaller companies pride themselves on knowing their areas and advising you where to go - or not to go. Ski North America Direct will sensibly advise a beginner against Jackson Hole, and point him or her in the direction of Breckenridge or Steamhoat. Its brochure has warts-and-all sketches of resorts.

Two places at opposite ends of the continent, Mont Tremblant in Quebec and Mammoth Mountain in California, both pride themselves on being family resorts, and this year they are putting a lot of effort into promoting their new features.

Mont Tremblant used to be an oldfashioned ski village, until it was thoroughly modernised at huge expense; it is now the most popular resort on the Canadian east coast. A children's centre now transports its clients up the nursery slopes on a magic carpet, and provides child care until 9.30pm on two nights of the week. This year the mountains have been zoned into areas for snowboarders, slow skiers and mogul fans. Birdwatching trails have been added to the off-piste opportunities; a floodlit area, the Xzone, offers skiing and other

activities three nights a week. Mammoth Mountain's high-speed qualifts and floodlit slopes should increase skiing time. There are reduced-price lesson/ lift/equipment packages for absolute beginners, and from April onwards you can ski in the morning and have a round of golf in the afternoon. Mammoth is a six-hour drive from Los Angeles, but an internal flight to Reno shortens the transfer time.

Increased accessibility is probably the most important development in transatlantic skiing holidays. This could be the time to take advantage of the laid-back lifestyle of North America.

Frontier Ski (0181-776 8709); Ski Safari (0171-262 5069): Ski Independence (0990 550555); Neilson (0990 994444); Crystal (0181-399 5144): Virgin Ski (01293 617181); Ski the American Dream (0181-552 1201); Ski North America Direct (07000 325325); Skiworld (0171-602 4826); Thomson (0990 329329)





# THE INDEPENDENT

## Visit sensational A 3 night weekend break

from only £309 per person INCLUDES £10 UK AIR PASSENGER DUTY

Come with us to Sensational Salzburg, home of classical music and birthplace of Mozart. You will spend three nights in this World Heritage site, set against a backdrop of breathtaking mountain scenery with the historic castle overlooking the city from its commanding hillrop position - a must for sightseers. You will discover Salzburg is also a shoppers' paradise with many elegant shops and boutiques to browse around. Best of all, savour the relaxed atmosphere of the city cases and watch the

world pass by. This superb break also includes a visit to the Bavarian city of Munich where you can spend your time visiting sites like the Nymphenburg Palace or experience one of the famous beer kellers, alive with the sound of 'Umpah'

music and songs These holidays have been arranged in conjunction with

Festive Holidays Ltd, ABTA V106X, ATOL 2172 Reg in England 1988967 Newspaper Publishing plc.
Reg Office: I Canada Square. Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL.



Departures in March 1998 0990 55 33 55

or return the coupon below to: INDEPENDENT SALZBURG OFFER, FESTIVE HOLIDAYS LTD, PATE COURT, NORTH PLACE, CHELTENHAM, GLOUCESTERSHIRE GL50 4DY. INDEPENDENT SALZBURG OFFER

] Please tick this box if you do not wish to receive fullure offer

## Colorado and the Keystone tops

At this time of year, Keystone in Colorado is already open for business night and day, as Cothy Packe discovered.

"Hi, I'm Jerrie. I'm really excited to be teaching ladies' day, and I'm really looking forward to skiing with you all. What are your goals for the day, ladies?"

This was the beginning of a Thursday ski class last season at Keystone, Colorado, aimed at "women who want to gain more confidence in their skiing", and made available because market research claims that women prefer to be taught by women - and also, ap-

parently, to ski in women-only groups. There appears to be very little about the skiing in this part of Colorado that hasn't been scrutinised by some kind of survey. But although there were customer comment forms in the ski rental building. I was surprised to find that no one asked me to review the parabolic, or carving, skis I hired. The Americans call these Super Sidecuts and they're shorter than traditional skis. With a paddle shape at the top, and a narrower part where the foot is attached, they are intended to help carve better turns. Whether they do or not is quite difficult to judge when you ski only for an occasional week here and there; but I felt in better control.

and I certainly skied faster down the mountain than I ever have before.

This turned out to be useful in trying to avoid the snowboarders. Disappointingly for the skier. Keystone has given up its snowboard-free status. In recent years it was the only resort in the state that catered for skiers only; now the all-encompassing research has shown that less money is made from skiers who like board-free slopes than from snowboarders. So since the beginning of last season skiers have had to dodge the boarders here, as they do

pretty much everywhere else. Keystone is a cluster of condominiums and lodges that has operated as a ski resort for less than 30 years. Last year the resort merged with the group which manages Vail, and the number of building sites in evidence suggests that plenty of expansion is planned. For now it retains the atmosphere of a village - even though.

SKI TIP

If you ski off-piste and in trees remember to watch the spaces and not the trees. Your body will follow your line of sight, and take you through the snow rather than having to focus on avoiding the trees, Chris Exall

unlike nearby Breckenridge, it had no settlement until the skiers moved in. Many of the condos are privately owned, and are still lived in by their owners for at least part of the year. This makes them more individual and lux-

urious than they might otherwise be. Four people staying in a two-bed. room condo will pay little more per person than they would when booking a package in England and staying in a hotel. But most condos have a bathroom for each bedroom, a large sittingroom with a log fire, a fully equipped kitchen, and an extra room containing a large jacuzzi - a perfect place to relax and contemplate the mountains.

While you soak in the hot water, you can judge the performance of the hardier souls who are night-skiing: Keystone is one of the few resorts that keeps some of its lifts open - and its pistes - until 9pm, giving about 50 per cent more skiing time than usual to those who have the stamina to enjoy it.

For those who prefer to ski or snowboard by sunlight, the lifts open at 8.30am and lead up to a section of slopes on three mountains, Keystone, the North Peak and the Outback. These provide an astonishing variety of skiing, and in my party - which consisted of one seriously advanced ski-mountaineering type, two intermediates and one complete beginner - we all found some to challenge us.

(<u>)</u>

But in addition to its own three mountains. Keystone has benefited from the merger with Vail, and is now connected to Vail, Beaver Creek and

Brackenridge by a shuttle coach service. This makes the whole area into something like an American version of France's Trois Vallées, Although it isn't possible to ski between the four resorts, the lift tickets are all interchangeable, which means that it's cost effective as well as easy to ski in different areas on the same day, or at least in the same holiday. And although it is run by a different company, the free shuttle bus between Keystone and Arapahoe Basin still operates every half hour,

adding an extra selection of slopes. Keystone suffers from the shortage of direct flights into Denver from the UK, although five international airlines now fly into the airport of Vail Eagle, only an hour from Keystone by road. Resort Express runs a frequent minibus service out of both Denver and Eagle airports, which will drop you off in Keystone, and the main car hire companies have desks at the two airports.

The most appealing thing about Keystone at this time of year is that you could be there now, doing parallel turns down the slopes instead of just reading about skiing. Keystone opened for the new season four weeks ago, and expects to remain in daily operation until 3 May next year.

هكذا من الاحل

YOUR TRAV INSURANC IEEE FROM LUNN LAN FOR IT ELSEW

PAR DE TO BLOTTE ET San ver (199. Jan

Blazz Pary Hallday

## No room on the slopes

Anyone expecting a mass of late-booking ski bargains this year is living in Cloud Cuckoo Land, according to Thomas Cook. Stephen Wood reports on the industry's boom.

If all goes well, I will be skiing in Arctic Sweden today. I'd never heard of the resort of Dundret until a few days ago; but when somebody told me that snow had fallen, the lifts were running and the Japanese downhill racing team was about to start its pre-season training there, I thought: why not?

You'd better get move on if, for example, you are hoping to go skiing during the Christmas break. Andy Perrin, managing director of Crystal, Britain's biggest ski company, says that the week beginning 27 December is close to being fully booked, and skiers "will really have to shop around to get a holiday". And if you were planning to kit yourself out with an O'Neill fleece and some Salomon snowboarding boots from the Snow+Rock catalogues, you're too late: those items - among several others - have already sold out. The wholesaler Terry Lingard (whose Outdoor Leisure company imports K2 skis, Smith goggles and several ski-wear ranges) is cheerfully "expecting to clear out the warehouse this year".

The 1997/8 season is turning out to be a bonanza for skiing. Talk to anyone in the business, and you are likely to hear that they have "never seen anything like it".

Tour operators were happy enough last year when, after three years of decline, the number of skiing holidays sold in the UK increased by about 10 per cent. This season the increase is - so far - at least twice as big. Crystal's Andy Perrin says that bookings were "massively up" in February and March this

"It was almost as if people had come back from their skiing holidays with change in their pockets," he says. Every beer or coffee had been cheaper than they expected, thanks to the value of the pound abroad, and the exchange rates meant we could put 'Save up to £300 per couple on 96/97 prices on the cover of our previous brochure for this season. The result was

TEL: 0171 293 2222

٠

sometimes running at a level 90 per cent above last year's."

Skiers are, Perrin says, "going where the value for money is: the big winners are those countries which have 'benefited' most from exchange rate variations." And that means the old favourites, France, Austria and Switzerland. Crystal's bookings to Switzerland are up an astonishing 390 per cent - although, as Perrin points out, this year's brochure tripled the size of the skiing programme there. But no destination is doing badly: "Italy's growth has slowed down - that's as had as it gets." he says. The only holidays that are hard to sell are those in Christmas week itself - because the 20 December start is too early for most families - and self-catering packages, "because people can afford something better".

Perrin's figures are for the growth in the number of holidays; he has not noticed a big increase in the amount spent per holiday. But Joanna Yellowlees-Bound has. She is managing director of the independent operator, Erna Low, and one of the never-seen-anything-like-its ("not in 15 years of selling ski holidays"). She says that "trading-up" has helped her company to double its turnover this year. The fact that it has become the UK sales representative for the Pierre & Vacances apartment agency, the biggest in France, has contributed to the growth; but Yellowlees-Bound says that Erna Low's turnover on holidays to La Plagne and Les Arcs, a similar range to that offered last year, are next season's models. up 80 and 100 per cent respectively.

Why the sudden rush to go skiing? Windfalls, exchange rates and the feelgood factor are a big part of it. They have pushed Thomas Cook's winter holiday market up 20 per cent, says its spokesman, Richard Grummit. But skiing is outperforming the rest of the market, he says, with sales in its Ski Direct division up by 30 per cent. Last season's weather obviously has a lot to do with that; as Crystal's Andy Perrin says, "Not only did everyone get great value for money, they got great snow,

In the equipment business (where Snow+Rock's sales are up 25 per cent), growth has been stimulated by

that our early-season bookings were yet another factor. Steve Hazell, Snow+Rock's marketing director, says the enthusiasm at last week's Daily Mail Ski Show at Olympia suggested that "everyone wanted to get buzzed up again". Sales of skis have fallen, Terry Lingard, of Outdoor Leisure, points out, from about 85,000 per year in the late Eighties to 25,000 last season; but "they are going up this year," he says, "because there's a reason to buy new

The latest carving skis are sweeping away traditional designs - and buzzing up the market for boots, too. Steve Hazell saw people at the Olympia show "queuing for an hour to try on boots", and buying expensive models with custom insoles and zip-fit liners because "they no longer want to compromise on comfort". (You will not be surprised to learn that attendances on the opening weekend at Olympia, and for the duration of the earlier Birmingham show, were up by 20 per

As with holidays, so with ski equipment: "buy now while stocks last" has a ring of truth. To keep up with demand at the show, Salomon air-freighted the equivalent of a 40ft container of stock to Snow+Rock last week - they did not dare risk its being caught in the French lorry-drivers' strike. But that was part of a pre-season order; now Hazell would like to reorder many lines. In most cases he can't, because after difficult years manufacturers have reduced the amount of stock they keep - and at this time of year they have stopped production, to concentrate on

But even in this season's seller's market, some things are readily available, and at a bargain price. In the difficult Christmas week, for example: Crystal has now dropped the prices for some holidays in Italy, France and North America on 20 December - and in ski equipment, too. As Outdoor Leisure's Terry Lingard

says, "anyone who's got stock of traditional skis will be panicking now" - so in the unlikely event that you want to buy a pair, you should be able to get a keen price. But what if the resorts where you planned to go are fully booked? Perhaps Dundret, in Arctic Sweden, could be an alternative. I'll



Ski bonanza: this year's rush is partly due to the strong pound Photograph: Bob Allen/ Stockfile

TRAVEL: OVERSEAS, SKIING

Special Interest Holidays

FAX: 0171 293 2505

fron

Skiing Holidays

8 days

0181 466 0222

→ Plus Travel

SWITZERLAND

UNLIMITED

PLUS TRAVEL

Steamboat

BIG SKIING, SMALL VILLAGES, Les Arcs, 3 Valeya' Valnorel. Excellent Chaleta/Hotels. From 11981 SERIOUS FUN 0171 405 1018.

LA PLAGNE/TIGNES: superb chaleis; most en suite; namies. Greet, value, Fly/Eurostar. Ski Best, ATOL, ATO, 01243 780 406.

BELLE PLAGNE. Private apt. Colour TV. Dishwasher, Sleeps 5. Adjacent piste, Aveil, Doc-April. £200-350 pm. 01277 214446.

Discover the Undiscovered. Nordio skiling, pretty unspolit vil-lages, friendly-hotals & great regional food. 01606 48899 for 98 broch. Headwater AITO 2142

2 WAYS TO GET YOUR TRAVEL **INSURANCE** 

I. FREE FROM LUNN POLY 2. PAY FOR IT ELSEWHERE

Free insurance on all overseas holidays over £299. Just ask at any Luna Poly Holiday Shop.

Lunn Poly 4 better way to getaway Free insurance applies to holidays with a dustation of up to 17 days only, coating 1299 or more per person on short heal holidays. CSB9 or more per person on long had holidays. Offer carried be combined with any other permotional offer or decount. Offer capitaes to rese bookings only. Other subject to avestability.

Full distribs available in shops.

DARLY USA FLORIT DEPARTURES UNTIL 14 DEC
ALL FARES INCLUSIVE OF ALL TAXES
ALL FARES INCLUSIVE OF ALL TAXES
NEW YORK/BOSTOM 225 CHOCAGO/HOUSTOM 291
WASSIGNETON/GRIJIMONE 235 SAN DEECO/PHIGHDX/VESAS 291
ATLANTA 458
ATLANTA 4 DOOR CAR ALL USA-FULLY INC 165/WEEK &
For triendly, stillelest service gall secondores For triesdiy, Stillest service call manage to 171 482 0414 manage

Christmas Extra Holidays Visit Beautiful MADEIRA MOROCCO for Xrnas & New Year
We have 2 very special day
flights departing on the
24th of December
Controls for 8 nts ex. Catwick Choose from a large selection of Hotels & receive a FREE Cuside Book & International Discount Card. 0161 430 5864

Cadogan C

JORDON, EGYPT, ISRAEL Tellor-made hineraries. Call Destination Rad See on 0181 440 9900 ABTA V0122 ATCL 3651.

Activity Holidays **Action Packed** Holidays in the Med and Caribbean

🖨 Dinghy sailing **≘** Windsurfing ♣ Villa flotil!a/flotilla RYA courses and instruction

A Mountain biking holidays Caribbean sailing from only £579 01273 62628

Sailing

Special Interest Holidays available at your local student travel shop or students' union, for more information call isic 01457 890930 student **(**%) card **(£5)** (8)151C

Cultural Tours • Nature Tours Wilderness Safaris Easy Hikes seatreks River Journeys • Taliship Voyages Over 170 adventures in Europe, Greece, Turkey, Egypt, Middle East, Africa, India, China, Japan, Asia, Americas, Aus/NZ. 8 days to 6 weeks. Prices from £345 to £3450. Call for brochure

D 1252 344161

Explore Worldwide (IN)
Aldershot, GILLI 110

Pully Bonded ATO/ATOL 2595 Fully Bonded AITO/ATOL 2595 http://www.explore.co.uk

O CHILE O ECLIZE O BOLIVIA O PERU IKYPOS Mossoc notes to consist and Cartiblean. Over 200 courses ted by excellent tutors Incl. Andrew Device, Sue Townsend & Toyah Wilcox. Superb setting, frianchy community, del. lood. 0171 284 3065. http://www.skyros.com/ OUR LATIN ANTERIESA
The Lattle Anterior Spice 0181 747.3108

0161 832 1441

CRUMES ANTARCHICA

Don't for

France

France

The finest selection of ottages, farmhouses un villes with pools Do as the French do ....line a little

New 1998 colour broch

Country Pottages in France

QUOTING DIFOU

01282445004

ALL OVER FRANCE

CHRISTMAS & 1998 Brochury exelleble lets Nov.

Puts other holidays in the shade

EXODUS The widest choice of routes by expedition truck across Africa, Asia and South America (2-30 weeks) id, London SW12 OLT. Ring 0181 673 0859 for brochure http://www.exodustravels.co.ul

TEACHING COUPLE REDISCOVER **EACH OTHER ON FRENCH** CAMPSITE

A CANVAS HOLIDAY offers you the freedom of Europe 5 NIGHTS at over 70 hand-picked sites, including more FREE early and late season options than ever before. Call for a free

1998 brochure on **0645 747 222**.



OUT NOW!
SANTE MONEY
BOOK DEPECTI
2.000 PRINATE
OWNERS ADVENTIBLE
WHEN & FERT HOUSES Costages • Studies • Apenment • Family Hotels • Mobile Homes - Bad & Breakfasts - City Breaks All regions of France. Free 315 pg Colour Brochure Tel: 01484 682503

Affair Quality villas and cuttages in the most lovely ureas of France. Marsions with swimming pook and terms courts, cosy cottages, witage trouses, instant chitekens and a citifate pigeomiec 5/7 Hersbrik Road, London WG SQH. AND 23M FOR SIN CAMPAC 48/67 980 0171-381 8519

I Bowhill A superior choice of traditional Prench VILLAS & FARRIHOUSES holiday properties. **1** 01489 878567 PRESCRIPTION BOUGHTE RING (0990) 145601 COURTE REF. RES CYCLING FOR SOFTIES MAI partition means, quality intelli-and a unique view of fuel France from a bicycle. Agent ATOL 688. Tel. (0:61) 248 5134. NORMANDY Gites De France. 120.

A village ski resort in the Mont Blanc region, with 150 kms of pistes. Only 4 kms fr Megeve. Holidays fr £80 for accommodation and six day ski pass. Chalets, apartments For information and 00 33 4 50 21 90 57 SKI AND

WINTER FUN Skiling · Ski-safaris Soowboarding All types, all levels of string.
All the best resorts & terrains AETA VOIIS ATOL 2290 Quote PC6774

anada A 0131 776 8709

EUROPE CANADA & USA Expert Advice For Stiers By Stiers On All Chalets, Hotels, S/C ARTA DARK 0181 871 4656

NORTH AMERICAN SPECIALISTS Europes Top Resorts. Whistler 01738 840 888

SIMPLY SKI - new brochure now available! A superistive range of chalate in Vel of lisers. Courchavel, Maribol, La Plagne, Verbier and St Anton. Excedent childcare facili-

SKI-TOURING O MOUNTAIN TRAVEL WORLDWIDE Call for our colour brochure 0114 275 7500...

Skiing Holidays THE BEST SKIING IN FRANCE Now, just one shared lift peas provid unlimited access to 410km of extent from £475 carly £475 22 top resorts £ tailor-made service Les Arcs Frua CON Les Arcs Www.erpdow.co.ck. 6587VATIONS: 0171 584 2841 BROCHLEE 0171 584 7820 FUNWAY 4

01273 50 50 33 LAST SEATS FOR NEW YEAR



Top Dech SWISS & £269 AUSTRIA & £289 HOTELS . CHALETS 0171 370 4555

SKI CALIFORNIA FROM JUST

MAMMOTH MOUNTAIN OR LAKE TAHOE

> Flight, hotel, car included. Book now and kids UNDER 17 qualify for 50% discount on Los angeles flights.



Phone 01293 54 48 89 or 0161 437 9135, e-mail on brochure.requests@fly.virgin.com or rush to your travel agent.

TO RESPOND TO ANY Voice personals ADVERTISEMENT, CALL: 0891 862 117

AND FOLLOW THE EASY INSTRUCTIONS. 24 HOURS A DAY!

(Calls cost 50p per minute at all times)

# Voice personals

TO PLACE YOUR FREE Voice personals ADVERTISEMENT, CALL:
0800 216 318
24 HOURS A DAY! FOR LIVE ASSISTANCE FROM A VOICE PERSONALS® REPRESENTATIVE, CALL MONDAY-FRIDAY 9AM-8PM.

#### SEEKING MEN

Attractive, intelligent, single female, 33, seeks professional male, 28-35, for intelligent, possible relationship, 27:355 DESPERATE & DATELESS (ONLY JOKING)
Attractive, outgoing, blonde, sporty graduale, early 30s, with GSOH, seeks Jun make, London area, 13:378
DESIGN FOR LIFE
Female, 30s, likes theatre, aerobics, interior decorating, adores jazz, seeks professional male, with greet personality & GSOH, for possible rangence, Surrey/London, 12:3342

SurreyLondon, 173342 HEALTHY LOVE LIFE Gorgeous, Scardinavian single mum, 34, wants intellectually, enrotionally and financially stable hunk, 30-45, must have VGSOH and a high IQ to get past first base. Cheshire.

35-40, for possible romance.

T3367

LADY SEEKS
ROMAN CATHOLIC...

or strayed Roman Catholic gentleman, for possible romance. My interests - music, poetry, dining out, walks, nature, theatre, cinema, home life. Are you a genuine, kind, lowing soul, 26-48° South West area. 153390

MAKE ME LAUGHI

Protessional, big, prehy female,

MARE the Laurent dessional, big pretty female, passion for fundaughter, utd like to share file with N/S, one, tall male. To include

Curvy, squanan female, 41, dark hair, 57, enjoys things myseinus or nauramiestra, al, cinemas, travel, laughter, philosophy, seeks kind, honest, committed, tall, solvent, sorted male, 40-50, deep eyes, lor inendship/releboship. \$23403
FREE SPIRIT IN CORNWALL
Beecht seinbelle Courter-Canada

grounded male, to share her journey with. 12:3368
SOUTH HANTS FEMALE
Warm, stiractive, sim brunette,
5'6". N/5, enjoys good conver-sation, theathe, outdoor pur-suits, salling, golf etc, seeks special male, 50-60, for com-panioriship, possible relation-ship, 13:3320
ONE IN MILLION
Vivacious, attractive brunette,

Vivacious, attractive brunette, 29, seeks tail, attrietic, profes-sional guy, 30s, for triandship/ untles. 23401 PORTY & ADVENTUROUS

ues lite, wants to be charts seeks N/S, professional, black male, GSOH, for Intendship. Aaka my day' 1273329 NON-TECHNOLOGICAL

PICTURE THIS temale, 45, into travel, ski-theatre, good lood/wine, too professional male 38seeking professional male, 38-48, N/S, GSOH, nationality unimportant, for friendanto/rela-tionship. London/Sth East.

SUPERWORAN SEECS SUPERMAN
Good-locking? Cultured? Love
hith-relifong & have? Gorgoous
male, with a certain sensibility
and sophistication, 40e, sought
by super, similar female, fives
SussenStame. TRUSH

Sussey/Surrey, 12330 DYNAMIC LADY Warm-hearted, gifted, bright 6 pretty, ellim, professional female, 45, 575, brown curly hair, many interests, loves tie. much to give right man. Ha's 5'6"+, professional, kind, humorous, active, looking for hieradship/relationship. East 888X. 223360

0800-215 318 SAILOR AHOYT
Friendly, professional, tall, sim,
Astan fermale, 25, enjoys salling, table-termis, theatre, seeks
practical male, GSOH, with
aimiter interests, 25-35, for
friendehip, possible relationship, London/SE area, \$3:132

ship. London/SE area. 273132 TIRED OF COOKING FOR ONE?

Me too. Adventurous, attractive temale, 28, seeks tail, fun-foring male. 28-38, for trend-ship/relationship, files cinema, pubs. Intelligent conversation, travel, independent On Sunday, hope you do too. WiYonishire. 12:3161

FEY BRUNETTE

Attractive, very foving, Intelligent female, 29, a fills eccentric, adores animals, music, countryside, esoteric arts, having fun, seeks protective, humorous, intelligent, well-bred male, 35-42, to watch the stars. Glastonbury aree. 12:3178 COOKING FOR ONE?

TOTAL WOMAN

SEEKS TOTAL MAN
Are you tail, handsome,
mature, professional, active,
single male, 35-457 I am a singie, black, classy, educated
and open-reinded lemale, 57,
32. Race not an issue, 353156
FAIR-HAIRED
Sim, Angio-Italian lemale, 32,
fiving in the Putney area, would
erigo the company, of a wellmannered male, of a similar
age, for a long-term frappy rela-

mannered male, of a similar age, for a long-term happy relationship. 37:3182

ADVENTUROUS COMPANION WANTED Are you an adventionsous, affectionate? West-educated male, 35-45? Are you interested in the great outdoors? Do you want to travel to more axoft places? Female, 30s, seeks you, for friendship/romance. 27:334

TWO'S COMPANY TWO'S COMPANY

sional, richest, solutated. 40. with good taste, N/S, for intendentip. London area. 273159

GORGEOUS CELLIST

ROMAN CATHOLIC. ...or strayed R/C gentlema. for possible romance. My inte

iod lood/wine, ional male, 38-

\$73121
SENSE OF FUN?
Slim, intelligent female, 25, plonda, green eyes, loves at sport, theatre and socialising, seeks attractive, professional male, 24-35, with a sense of adventure. London area, \$72944

FANCY A CHALLENGE?
Outgoing, intelligent, genuine, fun-loving female, 34, 55°, enjoys archeology, museums, clubs, pubs, enjoys life to the full, seeks tall, ethractive, intelligent male, GSOH, with similar interests, for friendship, possible relationship, £22334
PARTIME FOR LIFE
Silm, attractive, divorced,

Chinese female, 33, studying in UK, enjoys music, reading, films and travel, seeks professional, honest, educated, tall, inteffigent, slim female, 35, seeks warm, communicative, professional male, to share cul-

ests: music, poetry, dining out, walks, nature, theatre, cinema, home life. Are you a genuine, kind, loving soul, 26-48? South West area. 273180

CHRISTIAN PEMALE
Professional, Christian fermale,
30s., enjoys theatre, music,

8/96 17/3157 GREAT MINDS THINK ALIKE CATEGORY INTERNALING
CUtgoing, Independent, optimistic temale, 38, ergolys live
music, iraval, witry repende,
seeks male, 40-45, with similar
interests, for friendship/relationship. NW Manchester,
\$33121

\$2344
SEEKING SOUL MATE
Altractive, Irish female, 27, 58°,
enjoys laughter, fun, music and
a bit of a challenge, seeks
male, with character, to share
Ke's ups and downs. \$22955
FIERY BRUNETTE
Attractive intelligent female.

Attractive, intelligent female, 29, a litie eccentro, very loving, stores animats, music, countryside, escrant arts, having fun, seeks protective, humorus, intelligent, well-brad male, 35-42, to weart it estars. Glastonbury area. \$72919

SINGLE LADY
Young lady, 29, enjoys music, candielli dinners and wine, seeks nomantic, attractive, anale, for intendship. Lancs area. \$72913

CHESHERE LADY
Articulate, stitractive, enjoys walking, laking, theatre, music, dring, seeks single, same, solvent, socable male, \$35+. Could we be compatible? \$72981

vent, sociable maile, 35-. Could we be compatible? \$22981 BE MY LIBRARY Female, 31, likes music, books, cinema, seeks Oxford-educat-ed, sociable, sinces, honest maile, 30,36, should possess GSOH, for friendship and reta-torestip. DurhamfLondon area. \$22978 CAN YOU VALUE ME? I am a confident and sincere,

CAN YOU VALUE ME?

I am a confident and sincere, sophisticated, yet down-to-earth, attractive, 40-earnething female, looking for a valued male. NW London/Cambridge.

17:2940

FANCY A CHALLENGE?

Cutoolog, intelligent, genuine.

PARTNER FOR LIFE
Silm, attractive, divoced,
African lady, 35, GSOH, with
one son, varied interests, seeks
genume, kind, honest, romantic, family loving, professionalibusinessmen, 40+, for longterm commitment. No timewasters please. London area.
27:2558
GORGEOUS CELLIST
Intelligent, silm female, 35,
seeks warm, communicative,
professional male, to share culbural pursuits, country wells.

professionel male, to share cultural pursuits, country wells,
interesting convenation. NW
area. 172918
GOOSEBERRYI
independent intelligent, attractiva, witty, thoughtfut, sporty,
unbitchy female, 33, 576, seeks
athletic, intelligent, professionat, interesting 8 trumorous,
honourable male, 30-401sh,
5111-, masculine not heanderthal, for triendship first.
West Sussex based. 172974
SEEKING
SOMEONE SPECIAL
Very attractive, silm, affection-

ate, lively, professional, divorced lady, mid-30e, 578°, no children, N/S, GSOH, likes countryside, wallung, restaurants, chema, tun, seeks lailer, professional gent, under 45. ELancs/N Yorks area. 37:2925 SEEKING WONDEN-UL MAN Petila, affectionate & caring, professional female, young 35, seeks handsome, intelligent male, 35-45, for companion-shion-lettionshio. 37:2950

THE PHONE CALL THAT COULD CHANGE YOUR LIFE

Man hay say it happens when you least expect it. Or should I say where you least expect it. Who'd have thought placing a personal ad would lead to something like this. I was looking to meet a few nice people. But then there was

Chris. Wow! Funny, cute, and so sweet. Now we're not talking marriage here. Well, not just yet..." To place your own FREE personal ad, call 0800 216 318

For FREE live assistance from a Voice Personals representative call Monday-Friday 9am-8pm.

Voice personals

Voice Personals\* appears in The Independent each Saturday and in The Independent on Sunday

Both the advert and the call to place the advertisement are free, however advertisers are billed at 50p per minute for message reviews.

The advertiser is strongly encouraged to record a voice greeting prior to publication.

If you respond to an advertiser who has not recorded a voice greeting, you will still have the apportunity to leave a message.

SURREY LADY
Attractive, silm, fil female, 45, seeks rook chinbing companion, for occasional outlings, England/Walley, good looks, Intelligence appreciated too.

SNRPLY THE BEST
Creetive, humane, black lady,
enjoys travel, laughter, current
affairs, cycling, cinema, cooking, seets tun-lowing, bright,
creetive, black/mixed cace
male, 38-48, with individuality
and warmth. London area.

123151

SEEKING

SIMPLY THE BEST

'uagr'

LITTLE TREASURE
Slightly bohemian, attractive,
professional lady, 50, seeks
youthful gent, NS, who enjoys
norms ife, travel, the arts, good
conversation and has adven-CALLING
Thoughtul, sometimes chaltenging lease, always optimistic and interesting to be
with, enjoys cycling, talting &
my work, seeks male, 45-60,
with positive, energetic outlook,
from N.Shropshire/N.Wales/

Connected, creative, active, spiritual, soned, fun-toving, pro-tessional woman, 51, NS, seaks lab-back mate companion, to share, laughs, hots, walks, life and Jeny Lee Lewis, cw.

THE RONG IN THE CARCE
Affectionate, understanding
temale, 53, GSOH, iding on the
cate someone to share things
with, enjoys file, walking, saling, traveiling, looking for
happy, easygoing, tell male, 4555, for lasting relationship.
South. \$73883 SOUTH 273983
LITERATE, LIVELY WOMAN
Female, SD, Iwing in Lordon,
seeks reasonably new man,
who enjoys pubs, carema, taking, walking & reading, who
doesn't object to smoking.
273400

STYLISH & SPARKLING Attractive, stylish, brunette lady, 43, looks younger, no ties, enjoys travel and adventure SOUL MATE REQUIRED Lovely, silm, attractive, professional lady, occasional smoker. looking for love, seeks smotionally aware, professional male. 44-54. Hentfordshire area.

FEMINANE GRADUATE
Executive, stylish, silm, attractive, very effectionate and aincere lemale, young 40s, loves
music and the arts, seeks male,
42-50, executive/professional,
with similar qualifies, for permanent, happy relationship. Fyide
coast area. 25318
SURREY LADY
Attractive, silm, fit female, 45, Professional, atylish, black temale, 510°, with GSOH, seeks spontaneous male, 33-33, N/S, for tun and romance. London. 252345

SEEKING MOMEN CRABBY CANCER
Essygoing, sensitive, caring
male, 41, 5"10", NS, enjoys
socialising, sports, dining out,
chame, places of interest,
country wales, seeks intendly
temale, 90+, to share life and
interests. Heritordshire area.
##3326

...seeks man who remembers, The Beatles, The Eagle, The Appleyardes, He's profession-

erious relationship. artus would do. She is lovely, furny and serious too. 273125 SUSSEX COAST LADY

Highly creative, fit, quiet, furmy, sincere male, early 40s, young appearence, no ties, likes music, wild country, celtic fringe, seeks warm, sensitive lady, 28-40, for companionship in beautiful locations. 27:3387
UNSOCIALISED RAWNESS Romardic, crealive, sim, unpretentious, good-locking, male graduate, 43, 511", entips the countryside, seeks individual, sensitive, sim, stapely temale, for loving & supportive relationship. North Westfelsswhere. 27:3393

WATTING FOR A REPLY
Male postgraduate, 46, N/S,
espictro polymeth, seeks intellgent, creative, leadile, younger,
unetisched temele, for possible
serous relationship, Hampshire/
Sumey borders. 153402

BALANCED
INTELLECTUALLY
Fleescochile-booking male, mid-

effection, Landon, \$73391

ing, walking, chema, theatre, seeks Christian female, 35-45, Professional, reliable, articu-late, healthy, adventurous, honsize, reserve, soverairous, ron-est male, young-looking 49, NS, with higher degrees, seeks similar, attractive, warm female, 35-42, for relationatio. Scotland based. 127371

WORDLY & WISE
Humorous, tall male, younglooking 49, 62°, eriloys travel,
eating out, reading, films,
music, seeks pisseant lady, up
to 45, any nationality, for relationship, 5 Bucks, 373382

HELLIVA GUY

Active III considering male Active, fit, good-looking male, loves life, seeks silm, very attractive, uncomplicated lemale, 35-45, for romance, NE

Lines. 257325

EASY TO TALK TO
Professional, well-educated,
articulate male, youthful 50,
GSOH, social conscience,

All my friende are couples, do any single warner lancy a bear, with an easygoing male 30, ex-civil servant and backpacker. St Albants erea? 123338 POSH SPICE Self-meda, excluent male, early 30s. 6°, likes fast cars, Chelsas PC, seeks Posh Spice look-aliks, for fast times when more. 123359 Black, very ethietic male, 31. 6". VGSOH, enjoys music, sports, dining out, wining, seeks pleas-art, wonderful female, 21+, for FC, seeka Hoen cyncomery.

FC, seeka Hoen cyncomery.

FT 3359

THIS GOOD MAN...

Int'l hard to first. Honest, humorous. Intelligent, articulate, containe, reflective, crative, gentie mavents, 3a, 5'. darkhoue, big heart, seeks temste, with love of art, beauty, culture, lotas, suighter, intime-cy vorsistine, 33, 504

OCEANS TO EXPLORE

Graduate, 33, soeks bright, hubbly ternals, 25-32, to share thura may hold. Oxfordshire bassed, 27-3355.

LOVE & LAUGHTER

Well-bulk male, 35, 6'. likee chrema, sports, contexty, seeks mature tensle, for nights in and out. London/SE area. 23-36.

LET OUR WORLD UNFOLD

Presentable, caring, generous male, into affection, mutual respect and laughter, seeks ternale, 25-40, in share good times into the future. SE/Bristol area. 23-375

HELP!

Friendly, sessingoling, Worcesterned 25 '5' 10'. medium build.

HRENGER GOUCERS, Jewish male, unpresentous, Jewish male, those cricket, France, bridge, seeks tell, blonds Jewish fernate, for future. London hassed recesser CULTURED WRITER GULTURED WATER
Black guy, 30, seeks entiting ledy, 25-40kin, for hierdship, possibly more, South East England. 17:337 A LEVEL PLAYING FIELD A LEVEL PLAYING FIELD
Shy, withy mais, 25, 6', medium build, brown-haired, N/S, enjoys puts, clubs, football, firms, seeks outgoing, werm female, 20-25, for hieradahip first, maybe more. 25:3223
STOP! LOOK
Young sort-holding, hun-lov-

STOP! LDOR!
Young, good-boilding, tun-loving, white mate, 23, enloys
keep fit sodalising, pubs, cinema, seeks attractive, funfermate, agel-colour unimportant, for friendshiphelationship.
Brisco'based, 273221 Bristol based. 273321 MOTORWAYS OF LOVE Outgoing, essygoing, friendly, straje dad, 25, smoker, enjoys naby car driving, social driving, seeks similar, caring, undersampling temale, 25-35, must like children, for friendship/maybe more. Newcastle-upon-tune ares. 27:3333

THE BEST

Sincere, loyel, romandic, Intelligent, good-looking, Cardiff male, 25, 511", enjoye music, movies, travel, walks, seeks that special ternale, to lasting teledionship. 17:3357

LONDON BASED

Sim male, 23, dark halt, likes cinema, travel, reading, eating out, lootbell, distiless Wichael Portillo, seeks cheeky female, 23-33, 17:3322

ROVER'S RENDEZVOUS?

Tall, dark, handsome male, 25, seeks Vera, for possible romance. Chips and gravy essential part of first date. London, 17:3349

BRIGHT IDEAS

Bright, energest male, 26, 518", medium bulkt, enjoys music, 8-erature, seeks lemale, 20-27, with similar interests, for friend-shipfinalsionship. London. 27:3394

warm, shectionate companion. S Coast. 273334

SEEING SOUL MATE
Tat, sim male, young 39, varied interests, seeks sim, lively, caring female. 25-35. GSOH, for friendship, possible relationship, London. 273564

WONDER AT IT ALL.
Travelling, thinking, dreaming. 273394 LAUGHTER & ADVENTURE

LAUGHT ER & AUVENTURE Intelligent, enthusiastic, good-looking mele, 27, loves life, travel, sport, chreme, archeotogy, seeks inspirational, attractive, romantic temple, 24-35.
London area. 12/3347
HELLO, HOW ARE YOU?

HELLO, HOW ARE YOU?
Male, 27, loves music, food, chenna, drividing, seeks similar female, N/S, for good times, in the London area. 27:3372
RESELENT ROMANTIC Intelligent, good-looking, withy male, 25, 6; into theatre, dining out, wallding, cirema, conversation, seeks similar female, 25-45, no ties, for fun, friendship relationship, will bravel. Coventy. 27:3355
ARE YOU FOR ME?
Tall, outgoing, stractive mele, 25, into interesting places, rights out, pubs and live music, seeks sim female, 18-30. East Midlands area. 27:3327 Edlands area. 173327

WONDER AT IT ALL
Traveling, thinking, dreaming, reading, note & blues loving, smoking, drinking, laughing, tall, fit, lettle male cyclist, late 30s, seeks bright, attractive female, to share laughter and ronance. Bristol, SW area. \$73.391

Any Queries?
If you should have any quantities obest any expects of our Voice Personals service, please call PREE on 0800 216 318. NICE BLOKE
Tail, sim, handsoms, with, rich
male, not normally this modest,
would apprecate the company
of an independent woman, of
will integrity and beauty, born in
the 1950s, Brisnot, 12:3397

A BETTER LIFE
Attraction male, 40 into sking.

A BETTER LIFE
Attractive male, 40, into sking, horses, country life, motor-blues, travel and all the better things in life, seeks attractive, caring, positive female. 20-40. Midlands area. 25-334

LOTS OF NEW ENERGY
Pontecologial skim advantad. Professional, sim. educated, Christian male, 40, own home, seeks female companion, to share the and interests. Kent. 273388

SEEKING CELTIC ASIAN

Male, 51, seeks amiley, younger lensile, for opera, galleries, travel, gournanded and that other thing. SE London.

that other thing. SE Consolver 173390

OWNER OF A LONELY HEART

Genuine, sim, solvent male, 53, 57°, GSOH, NS, enloys trevel, politics, scolassing and title in general, seeks intelligent, caring female, 35-55, GSOH, N/S, for friendship, maybe more. Miclands area. 273331

OUESTION...

Are you a very femining, strong-minded female, yet in need of a strong, caring male, 58, with a powerful and caring influence? If so, then call. Miclands. 27333.

women's company, especially those with dark mainlyyes, preferably NS, for a related, Mendy relationship, 173130

LET'S GET TOGETHER Professionally educated male, etc., NS, fit, likes music, welling, pardening, world travel, seeks female, NS, 50+, for shering and caring relationship, Herefordshire based, 173148

IN OR OUT OF LONDON Tell, stem, well-mestled, romanic male, recently returned from abroad, looking for fun-loying but kind female companion, 28-38, to enjoy good times logather. 273184

SEEKING

CALLING YOUR HEART CALLING YOUR HEART
Gay, silm, good-looking, nonscane male, 26, 59°, likes cinema, pubs, during out, seeks tall, 
handsome male, 26.40, also 
non-scene, jor romantic relationship. Southampton area, 
453374

TIME FOR A CHANGE

SPECIAL OFFER!

40 but still in date! Educated, edectic, unique catch, not ugly male, likes politics, current affairs, tood, u name it, massive arts interests, seeks new male, friend, hopefully more. \$73328

HERTS MAN

Sim pursone, straight-look-HERTS MAN
Sim, non-scene, straight-looking/acting male, 22, 61°, short
brown halt, gray eyes, enjoys
chuch/choral/chart music, cinema, pubs, eating out, cosy
rights in, seeks strailar male,
20-28, bor hiendship/relationship, 12/3378

JUST FRIENDS

paint, draw and to exchange ideas. 223139

GURDELINES: Private individuals seeking largerent managaraous relationships may advertise in Vaice Personals". We suggest that ads contain a self-description, 18 years of age for publication in Voice Personals". Also, no ads will be published seeking personal younger than 18 years of age. We suggest that the last meet to any personal advertisement. The advertiser assumes complete liability for the content of all replies to any odvertisement or recorded assuage and for any advictional production or recording placed by the advertiser or any reply to any such advertisement. By using Voice Personals", the advertiser agrees not to let

#### Independent Hearts

#### ProfilesClub Magazine ALTOGETHER MORE FUN Information Pack

Sirius, for the intelligent, articulate and well educated, providing personal interviews and, of course, complete discretion at all times.

> Join now and claim... \$100 of free phone calls!

0800 L142145706N6

or write to FREEPOST 305 London EC1B 1SY

#### **GAY MEN**

Form long term relationships through

Significant **Others** 

the Introduction Bureau for Professional Gay Men 0171 499 5939 

ATTACHED? SEEKING ROMANCE?
Phone David now on 9181 962 6388 for our new
full colour information pack. Living Links is the UK's friendliest Newsletter dating resource with FRFE
CONSULTATION and HELPLINE for our subscribers. Nationwide ~ Discret + Efficient
Seet 401.
Man State Section of the section of

Clair voyancy CLAIRVOYANTS & Psychic Tarot 0660 66 99 08

a positive and humorous attitude, curious, edu lingual and verbal. In the age of 32-38 somethi a level of trust, honesty with an open-minded appearance. Independent and interested in a serious relationship and romance, with a nice self-made, generous male with charisma, etyle and an appe exciting personality for life with possibilities. Answers with full address and photo, only. Box No. 12544, Independent, 19th Floor Classified, Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL.

> JOIN CINELINK Socialise around

London N16 OQL

London N16 OQL

Springs Partners Medical deling agency, if you are plump or prefer plump partner ring 01352

Charities

SEEKING SOMEONE SPECIAL...!!!

Scandinavius well educated, multi-lingual, attractive,

lande and tall intl. Company Director resident in

Preferably of Asian, Porsian or North African origin with some of the following, similar credentials:

Petite, fresh and attractive. Affectionate and earing with style. A warm, sincere, feminine social woman with

norous attitude, curious, educated, bi-

Africa and Europe seeks a compatible woman partner.

#### Claire is suffering from breast cancer.

Claire looks perfectly healthy. But she's suffering terribly because last )

reast cancer left her without a mother. Her story isn't so unusual. Greekt Cancer is the single most common ce of death in women aged between 35 and 54 in the UK. All the women who died left friends and family. Some left young children. We still don't know how breast cancer develops. Which is why we support

painstaking research into the causes and treatment, carried out by doctors and scientists at centres of excellence throughout the country. Please, please help us to target the cure by funding this vital research. Your donation couldn't be more important. Breast cancer kills 300 women every week in Britain, it also hurts countless families - just like Claire's. Please help with a credit card donation

by calling 0171 404 3955 The Breast Gencer Campaign 111 High Holborn, London WCIV 6.IS. Charities

#### PHYSICAL, SEXUAL AND EMOTIONAL ABUSE. REJECTION AND HOMELESSNESS. LOUSY CHILDREN'S HOMES

THIS IS THE CHILDHOOD EXPERIENCE OF MANY NEEDY CHILDREN IN BRITAIN IT HAPPENS EVERYDAY AND IT'S HAPPENING ON YOUR DOORSTEP CAN YOU LET THESE CHILDREN SLIP THROUGH THE NET?

We at Shaftesbury Homes & Arethusa won't!

Donations to:-

For 154 years. Shaftesbury Homes & Arethusa has nurtured. educated and housed children who have been forgotten. With a combination of excellent residential care facilities, run by qualified and dedicated staff, education and sound parenting, we pick up the pieces for children whose lives have been shattered by horrific experiences of childhood.

Shaftsbury Homes & Arethusa wants the best for the children in our care, but we cannot continue this unique and vital work without your generosity. By sending a donation and supporting the work of a charity with an unblemished reputation in the realm of child care, you are helping to give a happy childhood to

the children who need it most of all. Children are our future. Don't let them slip through the net this

The Appeals' Manager Shaftesbury Homes & Arethusa Shaftesbury House 3 Rectory Grove London SW4 0DX Telephone: 0171 720 8709 SHAFTESBURY HOMES & ARETHUSA Reg. Charity 311697

Any advertisements carrying Box No I:--, please send replies to: The Independent, 19th Floor, I Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL







NOTICE TO

READERS



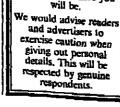
\* GAY? BI? OR . JUST CURIOUS?

LIVE CHAT

00592-568 588

EXPLORE

The Independent cannot spondents will receive a reply when answering advertisements on this page, although we hope that as a matter of courtesy they will. When making contact with people for the first time it is advisable to meet in a public place and let a member of your family or trusted friend know where you



حكذا من الملاحيل

le Himaiaya

SAME MENTS .

45 ·--

٠. ٠

## 11/GARDENING

### Vice and virtue in the bed

1 293 2505

(, CALL.)

8

FROM

In the game of garden oneupmanship, Kirsty Fergusson offers a guide to the etiquette of being a visitor.

"A garden," wrote the eccentric novelist Beverley Nichols, "can make or mar a friendship. It brings out all sorts of hidden virtues and unsuspected vices."

It's true: getting to know someone through a visit to their (or your) garden is a revealing experience. Poor Nichols; it seems he was forever doomed to show gushing, thick-skinned females round his garden. Either the sort who entertained the curious illusion that their ignorance was charming ("She would poke her parasol into a clump of lupins, to their infinite peril. and say 'lovely ... lovely canterbury bells!'

.. and look at me over her shoulder for the expected correction"), or the bullying kind ("There isn't a lavender hedge. Why haven't you got a lavender hedge? And I can't see any scarlet lupins. You must have scarlet lupins ... I'll send you some seeds").

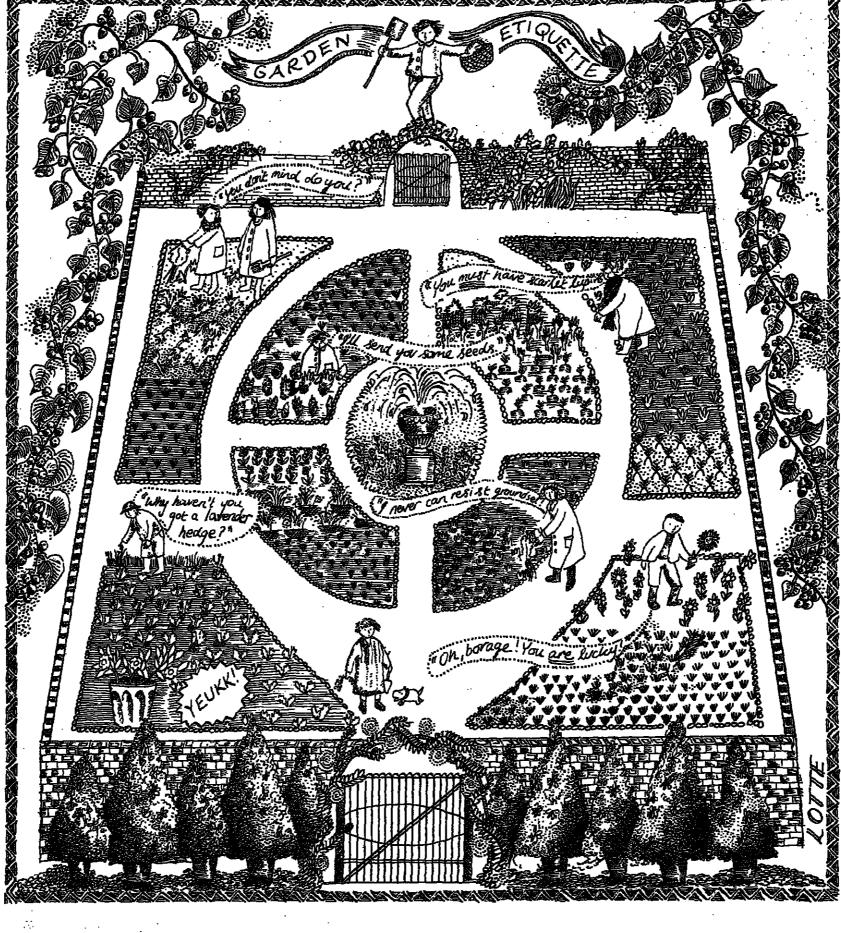
But knowing the right thing to say, after your host has amiably suggested that you take a turn round the garden together, is quite another matter. Making admiring noises gets pretty boring after a while for both parties, unless they are - respectively - deferential and conceited by nature. Nichols was very taken by a Miss Hazlitt, who could quote great chunks of Gerard's Herball, prompted only by the sight of a pimpernel flower. "The juyce cures the toothach being snift up into the nosthrills, especially into the contrary nosthrill," she murmurs, bending appreciatively over the little weed.

But pointing out a weed in someone else's garden by summoning up a 17thcentury cure for toothache, without annoying your host, is not easy to do. These days, if the compulsion to mention the presence of a weed were too strong to withhold, it would make more sense to recite a nugget of ethno-botanical wisdom from Richard Mahey's Flora Britannica: "Borage! You are lucky. I've just learnt that you can freeze the flowers in ice-cubes to decorate your drinks out of season."

Perhaps not: drawing attention to weeds in somebody else's garden, however fascinating their uses or abuses, is still a risky business.

It's even riskier to march up to the weed and tug it out, however instinctive the action. Especially if you look back at your host over your shoulder with a coy "you don't mind, do you?" Of course they will be offended. There follows, too, a lot of potential embarrassment for even the most thickskinned of visitors: the weed may snap, leaving the worst of it behind; even in the unlikely event that it comes out entire, you will need to dispose of it somewhere, or be left carrying it all round the garden like an unwanted plate of food at a party, while your

host rightly enjoys your discomfiture.



triumph and superiority in the eye when a visitor spots a weed in the garden at Great Dixter. She who is apt to dart forward with the cry "I never can resist the groundsel", is responding more to his presence than to the weed. "She would [resist the groundsel], though, if I weren't there to witness

its extraction," he remarks wryly. So it is that garden visits will often - sometimes knowingly, sometimes involuntarily develop into a game with an elaborate system of point-scoring, as enjoyable or unpleasant as the characters involved will allow. You'll know, when your interlocutor is bowling to you ("I can't think why everyone's getting so excited about gravel these days"), that you are expected to but it back. A simple block ("but what if the climate really is becoming more Mediterranean?") or a harder hit ("You just want to be ahead of Christopher Lloyd notes a gleam of , the game, don't you, by not having a trendy

gravel garden") in the opening over will establish the pace of the game and the pleasure or pain to be derived from the visit.

It is as well to establish quite early on in the conversational knockabout what the score is on names. Probably 10-0 to the host, He or she has the advantage, of course, of being on intimate terms with the plants in the garden and will probably know the names of them all as well as the names of friends and relations. The visitor shouldn't feel ashamed to ask for a name, but it looks like idle interrogation if, after a couple of answers, the visitor does not make some attempt to jot down the information. In fact, a notebook and pencil, produced discreetly, even shyly, at intervals, should leave the host feeling nicely flattered. Furious scribbling, on the other hand, will simply cause alarm and anxiety. Not a bad ploy, in fact, for those indulging in garden gamesmanship.

Aggressive plant oneupmanship is on the increase amongst the rising tide of newly-hatched Serious Gardeners. A lot of sparring may be observed before one of the combatants retires hurt, having mixed up his uliginosa with his guaranitica, or simply because he put the emphasis on the wrong syllable of "superbum". It takes time before the jousting gives way to a companionable banter in which most of the words spoken are in Latin or Greek, or wedged between single inverted commas. Alan Titchmarsh, who, after all, has a reputation to defend, admitted to a useful strategy for concealing ignorance where names are concerned. With a show of great casualness he would wave his foot in the direction of the plant in question (in fact I think he said "kick") and, with implied reference to the annual taxonomic nightmare when certain plants receive their official "new" names,

he would sigh "and what are they calling this one now?" If all went according to plan, the response (accompanied by a puzzled frown) would run along the lines of: "Er ... it's always been *Verbena bonariensis*, as

far as I know." Bingo. Add fraud to the list of vices on exhibition in the garden. But I can't help liking him more for that single confession than for all the cheery, honest toil that is presented as the essence of gardening on Friday night television. And I can't help thinking that the best remembered and most instructive garden visits have been full of irreverent, inquisitive, often competitive chatter; of quick put-downs, ridiculous suggestions and good-natured pick-me-ups: lessons in the compelling mutuality of integrity and deception, education and fun.

Anna Pavord returns next week,

### WEEKEND WORK

Autumn/winter has traditionally been a time for planting trees in the garden. Our woodlands, however, have often been overlooked. Over the past 50 years almost half Britain's ancient woodland has disappeared, making this one of the least wooded countries in Europe. National Tree Week (26 November-7 December) provides an ideal opportunity to do something about this. The national charity, the Woodlands Trust, is running a project with which the public can get involved: "Woods on your Doorstep" aims to create a total of 200 new community woods across England and Wales by the year 2000. For more information call 01476 581149.

In our own gardens, bare-rooted trees, shruhs and hedging often arrive in late November and December from mail-order nurseries. Plant them immediately unless the ground is frozen or waterlogged. If heavy rain or frost have made soil conditions difficult, position bundles together in temporary planting holes. Recent plantings should be checked after strong winds or heavy frosts.

Many trees and shrubs brighten up winter with their colourful berries, and provide vital food for birds. Blue tits are especially welcome as they eat over-wintering greenfly. Additional food and water are essential as the weather gets colder. Bird boxes should be cleaned out and washed down with warm water to remove parasites.

Seed heads from flowers such as Chinese lanterns, pampas grass and honesty can be used in dried winter decorations. Poppies and hydrangeas are particularly good to dry now and spray with gold and silver in time for Christmas. If you have any summer bedding plants still in good condition, consider potting some up to enjoy as pot plants on a sunny window-sill indoors. Busy lizzy and Begonia semperflorens make good temporary pot plants while fuchsias and pelargoniums, saved to replant next year. will flower for many weeks in warm, light conditions. Petunias can also be cut back hard, potted up, then brought indoors and encouraged to produce new shoots and flower again.

Garden centres will soon sell off bulbs at a discount. Plant daffodils, tulips, crocus, hyacinth and other bulbs in oots with drainage holes, using bulb fibre, and keep the tips of bulbs at the surface. Water well, place in a cool, sheltered position and cover with a thick layer of bark or compost. Leave to root over the winter. At this time of year, mainte-

nance is also essential. Check and repair fences, carrying out any preservative treatment while most climbers and wall shrubs are dormant. If you've finished with your mower for the year, clean it well, wiping blades, body and all metal parts with an oily cloth. Replace badly worn blades, resharpen blunt blades, change the oil and remember to empty fuel tanks.

Naila Green

### The Himalayas of Hampshire

A small slice of England has been transformed into a Nepalese-style valley, as Patricia Cleveland-Peck discovers.

Members of the Brigade of Gurkhas who died serving the British Crown are to be honoured by a Hampshire garden planted entirely with Nepalese plants, and containing a simple stone chautara. These fourwalled, roofless resting places are dotted along paths in the Nepalese foothills. Within the chautara it is customary to plant two ficus trees for shade: the pipal, Ficus religiosa, beneath which Buddha sat when he received his enlightenment; and the banyan, Ficus benghalensis, considered a place of good spirits because both Lord Krishna and the god Vishnu sheltered under it. The pipal is regarded as the female and the banyan the male, and it is the Gurkha custom to "marry" these two trees whenever a new chautara is built. Our climate dictates that in the Hampshire garden these trees will be planted in containers and taken inside during winter. They are being grown from cuttings, and are considered still too young to undergo even a to-

ken marriage ceremony. The garden is the brain-child of Major Tom Spring-Smyth, who was based in Nepal while

serving with the Gurkhas and who has himself collected some of the plants. He remembered that within the Sir Harold Hillier garden and arboretum near Romsey was a steep-sided valley similar to Nepalese terrain. Having persuaded the directors of Hilliers and the local council that creating a Nepalese-style garden there was a good idea, he enlisted the help of other eminent plant hunters, such as Roy Lancaster and Tony Schilling, and set

about planning the garden. It is made up of two levels, separated by a retaining wall constructed from the same stone as the changara. The lower, damp level contains a small pool, and a canopy has been planted of such trees as Himalayan white birch (Betula utilis), Sorbus microphylla, Rhododendron arboreum, Magnolia campbellii, Prunus rufa and Pinus wallichiana. Beneath this is a shrub belt of rhododendrons and other shrubs including the lovely Daphne bholue 'Gurkha', found by Major Spring-Smyth and given its name because "I saw it standing out on the snow with its wonderful flowers and gorgeous scent - and, just like a Gurkha, it was at its best in most inclement conditions."

Major Spring-Smyth has also provided builts of the 3m high lily Cardiocrinum gigameum, and seed of some lovely Himalayan proppies. Split between the damp and the drier areas are plantings of Hedychium densiflorum, Euphorbia longifolia. Astilbe rivularis, Inula hookeri, Tricyrtis maculata, Hedera nepalensis and other Nepalese plants.

"Nepal has a range of different climates and the thought came to me of having a memorial garden where we could celebrate the marvellous plants we've received from the region, as well as the brilliant service the soldiers have given us," said Major Spring-Smyth.

The scheme would not have reached fruition without the help of Brigadier CJD Bullock, curator of the Gurkha Museum at Winchester, who helped secure the sponsorship. "It is customary for the cost of a chautara to be donated in memory of a loved one," he said. I approached the Kadoories, a Hong Kong family who have been benefactors of the Gurkhas, providing village communities with bridges and hospitals. They agreed to sponsor this garden in memory of Sir Horace Kadoorie, who died in 1995." The garden will be opened today by Sir Horace's niece, Mrs Rita McAuley.

Gurkha Memorial Garden, Sir Harold Hiller Garden and Arboretum, Jermyns Lane, Ampfield, near Romsey. Hampshire (01794 368 787); Gurkha Museum, Peninsula Barrocks, Winchester (01962 842 832).



your security needs Fashable at 40°C. Available in seven colours and 3 sizes.

Tel: 0181 296 0366 GLE CL TURLE Tel: U181 296 0360 Fax: 0181 296 0360

Cheisea Plant Stand thatural Pine, complete 15 mins to assemble. Rustyroof fittings Ready to finish Assemble inclosed door use. i 139 (البلاج 23 أوالم 23 أوالم). 39 Grier by phase (محالي 146 و 15)

ty chapse/FG. strated datath form S.A. John Dept PI, Unit 15, Menne Bessess Cestre Deck RI, Lythan, Lancs FY8 SAL, Englan Tel: 01253 736934 24 brs. Fac: 01253 795191

To advertise in this section please call 0171 293

**2323**.

TRUG 5 BASKETS Traditionally crafted from Willow and Sweet Chestnut.

Prices from £12.50-£45.00 eg No 5 (18"x10") £24.00 Plus £4.50 p&p Send S.A.E. for details. THE TRUGGERY (PG), Coopers Croft, Herstmonceux

East Sussex BNZ7 10L Tel. Fax. 01323 832314 LUIT PRESSES AND CRUSHERS

Into sarphus and windfall into pare, fresh juice.

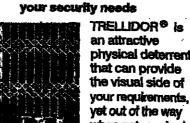
In democrated on BSC Gardener: Visit Mr.

A source of traditional, quality: machines, satish is the price, town and cider making. Presention 29:50



**GARDENING** 

more than ever necessary to consider



when not required Low cost instalment **TRELLIDGR** • 3 year guarantee Over 500,000 sold world-wide

PHONE NOW TO SECURE YOUR PROPERTY Freephone 0600 592283 TRELLI ASSEMBLERS LIMITED, FREEPOST 2V2038, KINGSWINFORD, WEST MIDLANDS DY8 7PP

FINCH CONSERVATORIES LTD A WMT Holding PLC Co

ENJOY ALL YEAR COMFORT AND SUN IN A FINCH CONSERVATORY DESIGNED TO SUIT YOUR HOME OR POOL AND BUDGETI Experienced staff cover the UK No Obligation FREE Survey

Freephone for brochure and Free Advice NOW! 0800 378168 or FINCH, FREEPOST, SHEFFIELD S20 3GZ mbers of the Conservatory Association





Award Winning Ultrasonic Cat Deterence System



by STOCK NUTRITION \$49.95 STATION ROAD, YAXHAM,
NORFOLK, NRI9 IRD 01362 694957

perfect cracker-arrapped present in which to hang about (inside or outside)?

IIGSAW PUZZLES MADE

FROM YOUR PHOTOS DELIVERED IN 7 WORKING DAYS II AN ELEGANT CIFT BOX

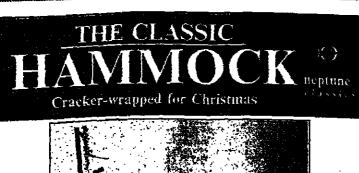
ROSIE NIEPER T-SHIRTS

G NZO FO

SMOKED -

SCOTTISH SALMON

W11 9LL 0181-255-9926 24hrs





The Naptune Classic Hammock @ £39.95, plus Deluxe Steel Cradie @ £89.95 The Classic Hammock is made of soft cotton-drill and is 5ft x 7ft, which makes it the ideal Christmas present for everyone in the family to enjoy.

It comes with a choice of hanging options, and will HANG ANYWHERE, inside or out For a hessle-free Christmas, take advantage of our gift-wrapping service which will transform the hammock into a beautiful GIANT SIZED CRACKER. Call us on 01249 783252 or post the coupon for our FREE catalogue

AS FEATURED BBC Gardeners World The Mail on Sunday The Telegraph

The Times

Tel: 01249 783252 Fax: 01249 783253 **TODAY'S JUSTOOLS OFFER** 

Industry's

PRODUCT

OF THE

AWARD

We tried it

and were

impressed\*

 $\odot$ 

YEAR

#### Complete Home Sharpening System

Today's Offer is a fast, effortless and inexpensive method of homing sharp-as-new edges on blunt, ineffective chill bits, hand tools, knives and scissors. Safety tested and approved by BSI England and TUV Germany. His British made precision engineered system achieved a maximum 5 star rating from Practical Householder.

Using any electric drill as the power souther concled constation aliminates the Using any electric drill at the power source, its water-cooled operation eliminates blade edge overheating and preserves the temper of the steel.

The carefully designed tool holders and jigs ensure that tools being sharpened are held against the grinding wheels at precisely the correct angles. Use to resharpen HSS drill bits up to 1/2" diameter, masonery, hummer and SDS - Plus bits, centre point wood bits, wood chisels, plane blades, pointed & bladed hand tools, left or right handed scissors, all types of lonkes.

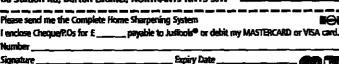
At Yoday's Offer price of £29.95 + £2.95 plip this Complete. Home Sharpening System offers Complete Home Sharpening System offes exceptional value and a great d.i.y. gift idea, Orders received by DECEMBER 13th guaranteed

If you are not fully satisfied,

an IDEAL **GIFT** 



Post coupon to: JUSTOOLS® (Dept HX46) 88 Station Rd. Burton Latimer, NORTHANTS NN15 5JW



Address

The Original Breton Shirt

Fisherman's working shirt.
Made from 100% unbleached

cotton. So comfortable they're addictive. We bought them on

oliday 10 years ago and lifed ther so much we left obliged to share them with everyone - honestyl

Available in cream/res

Justools® (Dept HX46), 88 Station Rd. Burton Latimer, NORTHANTS NN15 5/W

THE IDEAL XMAS GIFT All photos/slides

Send 4 colour photos/ stides and we will leser print your picture approx 7X5 on the calendar, The calendar is A4 this bound with pre-printed front cover & card back-3 months per page. An ideal gift as it is unique

eturned. Simply send your 4 photos stides along with your cheque/Postal order for £9.99 +£1.50 P&P To: Lascatine Print. PO box 82. Dept Macdesfield. Cheshire SK11 7LR Tel 01625 576277

o 14 day home to

BACKFRIEND

attende in UN record seed in 20 operation of Acadim placer limit 200,000 sold in 20 operation of Acadim of Acadim and Acadim and Acadim and Acadim and Acadim of Acadim and Acadim and a Acadim and Acadim and Acadim to Front to resident, orthogonalis and unjustants paint at vice

Post Code

The PROPERTY Companishers are shade assets or plants (1794 5022) for the shade on the Property Companishers are shaded on the Property Companishers and the Property Companishers are shaded on the Property Companishers and the Property Companisher

CALENDARS TROM YOUR COLOUR PHOTO'S

States 64, 66, 7 74, 74, 74, 75, Chaques, ROS and Credit Cards are tall 01560 485187 fax, 01560 485195 Breann at ZigZag, Dept.(ROS, Riverford Mill, Scawaroon, Ayrightee KA3 5

Street S (Mr. 187) 14 (Mr. 487) 12 (487-487) 20 (187) (1850 plus (1.45) prip or two for (260) including Childrens alone also mediatio (22°,24°,24° and 287) @ 611,60 inc.prip.

THE INDEPENDENT

Win a Prize In our Easy To Enter Christmas Competition

The Breton Cap classic navy fisherman's last.

Made in France from or

enaissance

is offering a special Christmas basket incorporating luxury food and wine every Saturday until 6th December in our Christmas Guide Competition. Every week the first correct postcard pulled out of the Christmas sack will win the special DTIZE.

#### How to Enter

There are five questions, numbered one to five, hidden amongst the Christmas Gift Guide advertisements. Once you have found them, you must find the answers. These are located within the advertisements. Send your answers. together with your name, address and daytime telephone number on a postcard

Christmas Gift Guide Competition No. 7, Marketing Department, 19th Floor, The Independent, One Canada Square, Canary Wharf,

London E14 5DL Closing date for Competition No. 7 is Thursday 20th November 1997

### Christmas without cruelty 10am-5pm Sunday 30 November Original cruelty free. Hornton Street ethically produced London W8

Christmas gifts sold in aid of charities. campaign groups and

by ethical traders

Kensington Town Hall

High Street Kensington tube

admission £1 Children under 11 free Vegetarian cafe Animal Aid 01732 364546

> REPRODUCE THE FIVE QUALITIES OF A TRADETIONAL

WINE CELLAR.

CONSTANT TEMPERATURE

APPROPRIATE HUMIDITY

TOTAL EXCLUSION

OF UNWANTED ODOURS

FREEDOM FROM ALL

VIBRATION DARKNESS

FOR A CATALOGUE:

SOWESCO FOOD

MACHINERY

COLTD

TEL: 0800 7319217

Limitrious British made Ingerie in pura sife & lace, plus "everyday" underwear.

pightwear & hermals in sof

25k jarrey, Stars 8-20, 32A-40D

CATALOGUE 01761 413136

SULIS (Dept !)

BATH BAS 48H

**EuroCave** NO CELLAR? NO PROBLEM! A real Gill Subscription STORING BETWEEN SA AND SM BOTTLES, OUR

TOP QUALITY \* CRACKERS \*\*
VERY NAUGHTY & SAUCY

Great fun for any Adult Party or Celebration!!! BIRTHDAY, XMAS, NEW YEAR BIRTHDAY, XMAS, NEW YEAR BIRTHDAY, XMAS, NEW YEAR BIRTHDAY, YMAS, NEW YEAR BIRTHDAY, YOUR PARTY GO WITH A BANGILL 07000 272253

ADULT PARTY CRACKER CO. DEPT ID 646, PO BOX 696 WORTHING BN14 8PZ

WEATHERVANE FOR XMAS?



**E** Craftsmen made in U.K. All steel, Super Quality **3** Sizes available **300 designs approx** Prices from £29.99

Further details/brochure: Webbs Distribution Ltd. Unit 2, 15 Station Rd, Knebworth, Herts SG3 6AP Tel: 01438 814620 (24hrs) Fax: 01438 815047 Comprehensive brochure available =

Sent anywhere UK or oversea Perfect for friends family and busine Tel 0121 449 4673 Bargain wrist and pocket watches available in time for Christmas including ographs from £89.95 For further details contact Showclear Ltd, 24 Brackley Boad, Towcester, Northants, NN12 6DJ.

**Chocolates** Beautifully gift-wrapped

Tel: 01327 358080 Fax: 01327 358388 Winners of the International Open Amateur Poetry Contest "A Lasting Calm"

Grand Pito. Wasser Emeka Obiandu/London

Meriona Armstrong / North Yorkshire L.D. Hardman / Greater Manchester Debra Hunston / North Wales Graham Hunt / Suffolk

Robert Lyndsay / Belfast Rosie Major / Hampshire Barry Mansfield / Surrey Derek J. Pluck / Lancashire Anthony Smyth / Gwent

G.B. Langley / Berkshire

Gregory Jones / Oulu Taird Prize Winners Frederica Arulanandom / Greater Chrisopher Kewell / Devon

Manchester S. Ashford / Isle of Man M. Atkinson / East Yorkshire Elizabeth Beale / Bedfordshire Graham R. Bell / Yorkshire Thomas B. Besch / Sussex Brian Blackwell / Leeds Jessica Brown / Northamptonshire Doris M.H. Brownlee / Gloucestershire Rosaleen Clarke / Belfast Maureen Cropley / Avon Thomas Dade / West Yorkshire Joyce M. Drackett-Case / Newtownabbey Carolyn A. Drury / Nottinghamshire Christopher Dunn / Nizonne Derrick D. Dunn / Birmingham Maurice Ebbage / Beverley Chris Fell / Gloucestershire Tess Good-O'Brien / Co. Waterford Angela Gregory / Avon Mary C. Hastie / Surrey

Kathryn Hodgkinson-Szonmer / Karen V. Hodgson / Chorley Andrew G Homfray / Dorset Paul Hooper / Kent Viola Hughes / Co. Antrim Karl Hulme / Dorset J. Onslow Johnson / Gloucestershire Owen D. Jones / Derbyshire

Lynda A. Liddell / East Yorkshire . Maureen Love / Lanarkshire Maria B. Lynch / London Sheila Manley / Coventry Michael J. McGlynn / Co. Offaly James McHenry / Avon G. McKeown / Fenfrewshire Anne Melling / Leicestershire Stephanie Metcalf / Berkshire Pauline Palmer / Surrey Alf Parry / Leicestershire Dean Poland / London R.J. Radley / London Robert W. Reed / Rent Oscar Guardiola Rivera / Aberdeenshire Joanne Robins / Norfolk Brian Rysdale / Gwent Siv Sharma / Cheshire E.R. Skinner / London N. Smith / Comwall John Stephenson / Tyne & Wear Paul R. Taylor / Shropshire Gregory P. Udeh / Surrey Ann P. Vesey-FitzGerald / Hampshire Dorothy White / Clydebank Iris M. Willis / Middlesex Craig M. Wood / Luncashire G.A. Youldon-Hockey / South

Glamorgan Congratulations also to all Semi Finalists Each month The International Library of Poetry sponsors an amateur poetry competition in the UK and Ireland and will award over £18,000 in prize money over the next 12 months. Anyone may enter the competition simply by sending in one original poem, any subject, any style to: The International Library of Poetry, Dept. 5816, FREEPOST LON, SITTINGBOURNE, Kent ME10 3BR (no stamp required). The poem should be no more than 20 lines, and the poet's name and address must appear at the top of the page. The entry must be typed or neatly handwritten and will not be returned. All poets who enter will receive a reply, along with complete competition rules, within nine weeks. Congramiations to all prize winners and to all semi-finalists

Poets House, Cremers Road, Dolphia Park, Sittingbourne, Kent ME10 3HB.

Denaissance Gift Collections

TRADITIONAL & CONTEMPORARY STYLES

THE FINEST FOOD & WINE
CLASSIC CHRISTMAS HAMPERS
VELVET WRAPPED PORT & STILTON OR
CHAMPAGNE & CHOCOLATES
EXCLUSIVE GIFTS FOR CLIENTS,
FRIEDING & EALINITY

FRIENDS & FAMILY
PROFESSIONAL SERVICE TO PROMOTE YOUR
CORPORATE IDENTITY
WORLD-WIDE DISPATCH &
HAND DELIVERY IN LONDON
CALL FOR A FREE BROCHURE

TEL: 0181 780 1560 OR FAX: 0181 780 0557

DELICIOUS GIFTS BY POST Thong Briefs Hand made Belgian

kocolates direct from rugge, pos £5.00 for an extra pair

500gus (1 lb): £8.50 + p&p 1 Kilo (2 lb): £84.95 + p&p

K2- Where can you see oralisms and women put together the tu niture of your choice? # 01474 537237 SILK LINGERIE **CUTLERY RE-**SILVERPLATING SERVICE Will make your worn cuttery a good as new. Single hams. upwards, Alac teapots, trays,

dishes, etc. Very reasonabl prices. Repairs undertaker Nationwide service. Full details from: C.R.S. Buttle Cott Wisborough Green, RH14 OBN 01403 700424

KINIKI Dept & PD

Wite for death to: Ruth Helyer, Suite H, Marienette Books, f Hutters Close, South Churc Durhem DL14 0XB England rat 01386 776865 Fax 01386 776766 MAN FOR CHRISTMAS!! Salin Briefs MEN'S SATRI WONDERSH in a top Frenck vineyard. Quality wine and great fun. 4 PAIRS 器£10 A UNIQUE GIFT NORMALIY SAVE 516 For a brochure ring or write quating ref DVD to 33 3D Wines, Holly Lodge, High St., Swiweshead, Lincolnshire PE20 31.



FICTION WRITERS

Let us publish, promote and arket your novel on a fee basis,

The Very Best Quality
27g (stor) sleed pack .... (13
650g (11 b) sleed pack .... (13
650g (11 b) sleed side ... (13
90% (25) sleed side ... (124
57g (25) sleed side ... (124
57g (25) sleed side marks 14 260 PECES - 157X11 - £13.59 inc pla 120 PECES - 157X11 - £13.59 inc pla 60 PECES - 157X11 - £13.59 inc pla 20 NECES - 157X11 - £13.59 inc pla 20 NECES - 157X11 - £13.59 inc pla 20 NECES - \$157X11 - £13.59 inc pla SPECIAL OFFER

\$2.27F | Such shed | rock | 142.9

VAC-PAC | Ist diest not | roise

Officerds ramy be included

VisiblemendlAmes or obsque ist

LOCHENGOWER

KENELETON MIKL

KURKCUDERIGHT DGS 4M

Tel: (01557) 202031 (7 days)

FAX: (01557) 302035

XMAS DELLVERY

CULA DANTFED 60 PECES - 17-XII - 21-39 inc play
10 PECES - 11-YE - 29-9 inc play
to order tend any size playto to enderstand any size playto to enderstand any servent for
ARTK-ZAM, Dept. (144)
Friedmann Farm, 14 Coupless Lame,
Bandrind, Sarrey SAF 2AN
Tel: 017-37 379 342
Full related if not 160% satisfied GUARANTEED TABLESAFE HEAT RESIGNAT PROTECTION FOR YOUR THEFT feed ! FOR THE MAN WHO THINK 27.95 HE HAS EVERYTHING Personalised Hand Crafted Ber or unique message printed on the label Custom-transary state, any state, any state, any state, any strate, Tablesare protects your polished table against heat and states. Can be rewarded for use as a writing surface. Delevery 7-10 days, White or phone for details, and stample. The state of No additives or prepesticide free hops ORDER now far Unique Xmas Git UK 49 hr service 24 45
Lugton Brewery
01505 850247 Made of pure silk, with a plush black etastic walstband and thong back. • Available in: Scottle Dog in 2A FERDINAND PLACE, LONDON MAY BEE Tel: 0171-267 5688 or 0171-482 4021 blue, red, green, or Star in red, black, blue background, or Plat Sexy Lingerie GENUINE BIRTHDAY NEWSPAPERS black, bloe background, or in blue, green, pluse. • Yisist sizes from 30" - 46" the perfect gift Pinge Range Of Classical, Sexy Lingerie and Party Dresses TREASON SE 1642-1997. Smiler Menspaper COLUECTED FREE CATALOGUES from 1915. Ready for pre See by depart. REMEMBER WHEN 5 more catalogues of other items available on request 24 HOUR ORDER & BROCHURE HOTLINE 520 Pariey Way, IS Croydon CRO 4RE **5** 0171 274 3387 (small charge) E-Mail newundies@aol.com incing god p<sub>opt</sub> (TBS, FREEPOST, PO Box SKE, London SES 988 Rain R. (Constitute of November 1888) 0181 688 6323 Tel/Fax 01323 502104



Region (195) de la Digermania (195) THE WATCH ACCOUNT 0950 626 260 Fax/Apra 61702 395 109



We Make Sofas and Sofa Beds See your Sofas and Chairs being made

By Craftsmen and Women Choose your Sofa or Chair and Fabric. Leave the rest to us.

Made to Measure Vast choice of fabrics. All leading Brand names. Sandersons, Monkwell, Osborne and Little, Liberty and many others. Open 7 days

Letting, Contract and **Interior Designers** Welcome Re-Upholstery Curtains and

Divan Sets? Certainly!

We will beat any other price of a comparable quality Call the FACTORY SHOP at Poetstyle Ltd. Unit i Bayford Street, Mare St., Hackney, Loudon E8 8SE (Nr Well St.) Tel: 0181 533 0915 2 lines Fax: 0181 985 2953

Not Antique



COMPUTER DESKS

& Unusual Antique style cabinets to hide computers for the home & office environment



716 SCHOOL CLOSE, QUEEN ELIZABETH AVE., BURGESS HUL [REVINER CHINIC & SECRETAL WEST SUSSEX RELIS VEX MORSON 9 JULy - 5.30 JULY TOE 01444 245577





حكذا من الاحل

Asimple fish

Commence of the second Springer Layer

A STATE OF THE STATE OF The control of the grade And the state of t

## 13/RURAL



### NATURE NOTE

ofa Beds

The slender hawks which you see hovering over motorway verges are kestrels, drawn to those raucous places by the mice and voles living in the grass beside the road. The birds themselves normally make little noise, except when nesting, then their cry is a shrill, insistent whistle -

Biking up a lane between fields the other day, I was surprised to hear the sound coming from close at hand. The only tree nearby was a stunted ash, standing beside a stone wall; and, with the branches already bare, I could see there was no hawk in it; but when I got off the bike and looked over the wall, I immediately spotted brown feath-

ers barred with black. There were two kestrels, on the ground, feuding beak to beak. The instant they saw me, they were off - but they left no prey on the ground, and no clue as to what the argument had been about.

Duff Hart-Davis

### How green was my mountain – or soon will be

The farm is so wild, no one even knows how big it is, but David Henry has great hopes for his new home on Green Mountain in Ascension Island. Duff Hart-Davis meets a modern pioneer.

None but the most intrepid would take on a 10-year lease of Green Mountain Farm, wrapped round the summit of the volcano that is Ascension Island in the South Atlantic. Yet David Henry, a stalwart 37-year-old born in London of St Helenian and Irish parents, has done that very thing.

Only those who know Ascension can fully grasp the size of his project, for the farm - clinging to precipitous slopes between 2,000ft and 3,000ft above sea level, at the top of 19 tortuous hairpin bends - has never been fully under control, and has lain abandoned for

To start at the beginning: in 1817 the island was occupied by the Royal Navy to prevent the French from using it as a base for rescuing Napoleon, incarcerated on St Helena, 700 miles to the south east. Ascension was then a forbidding place, with rust-red volcanic cones rising from deserts of tumbled black lava, and no plant life except near the top of the highest peak, which sailors naturally called Green Mountain.

For the next century the island remained a naval base, run by the Royal Marines who, as a sideline, made immense efforts to cultivate part of the mountain to provide fresh food. Then, as now, two distinct climates prevailed. Down on the lava plains the temperature was in the high 80s all year round, with a south-east trade wind blustering over the lava. High up, the air was far cooler, and the mountain caught the moisture of passing

Severe handicaps limited agrisparse rainfall, which some experts believed could be increased if "the direction of the electricity were reversed" by convicts whirling chains on the summit. Another snag was that with scarcely any native plants or animals there were no natural controls, and one imported species after another ran amok.

Rats had already come ashore from wrecked ships, and were living off seabirds. To suppress them, the Marines brought in cats, but these soon escaped and went wild, so the Navy imported dogs to hunt them down. Goats, sheep, pigs, and donkeys also made off into the lava deserts.

Up on the mountain, the Marines established a little farm. Many imported plants and trees died; others rampaged, and plagues of insects and mice ravaged garden crops. From their comfortable base in London,

4,000 miles away, the Lords of the Admiralty directed the deployment of corrective measures: mynah birds, starlings, rooks, pheasants, partridges, ducks and hedgehogs were sent out to eat the insects, and barn owls to catch the rats and mice.

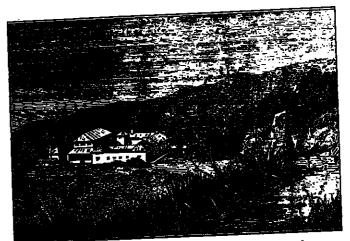
Professional gardeners were driven to despair by repeated setbacks - and none more pitiably than Joseph Spearing, who in 1887 had to be taken away "in a condition of quiet dementia", suffering from what was described as "formication"; he believed that "not only his bed but his whole house was swarming with ants".

When the Marines left the island in 1922, the farm was maintained after a fashion by their successors, the Eastern Telegraph Company, forerunners of Cable & Wireless, but in the past few years it has gone sadly downhill. Enter David Henry, a carpenter by trade, but now also a farmer, who in the

several buildings constructed by the Marines. Some indication of the farm's wildness is given by the fact that nobody knows how big it is. David estimates it as between 10,000 and 20,000 acres, but there is only one half-acre patch that could reasonably be called flat, and perhaps 50 acres that could be brought into use for market gardening, "if I work really hard".

That is what he proposes. He is now in St Helena, but later this month will bring his fiancee Melanie Timm, a veterinary nurse and livestock officer, to live on Green Mountain for the foreseeable future.

The challenge, in which he rejoices, is to sort out the astonishing ecological jumble left behind by the Marines and their successors. Ginger, brambles, aloes, bamboo, acacia, casuarina, wild raspberries, all grow together. Already he has discovered an overgrown coffee plantation that can



Ascension Island, from the 'Illustrated London News', 28 February, 1874

spring of 1982 went out for a holiday to St Helena, and was marooned there for seven months because the ship that serves the island was commandeered for the Falklands war. As St Helena has no airfield, the only way he could return home was by hitching a lift on a Danish vessel, which called landers by the trade winds. at Ascension.

That visit gave him his first sight of Green Mountain. He later made many return visits to St Helena and on his way home he several times called at Ascension, taking advantage of the fact that RAF Tristars regularly pass through on their way to and from the Falklands garrison.

Then, earlier this year, the authorities decided to advertise Green Mountain farm for let, and David was the successful applicant. His only rent is a commitment to maintain the farm as a recreational area for the temporary residents who live and work down below. (These include British and American personnel, and a considerable staff of workers from St Helena, known to all as "saints".)

His tenancy agreement encompasses all the land more than 1,900ft above sea level, and with it

be brought back to fruitful life. A flock of 1,800 sheep, loose on the mountain, will have to be corralled, culled, and rejuvenated by introducing pedigree rams. Down below, wild donkeys still roam the lava, living largely on cardboard and hats blown off unwary is-

One factor in David's favo that on the mountain rainfall has definitely increased, apparently in response to the spread of trees and shrubs. Now vegetable seeds leap up within three or four days - but so also do weeds.

The new incumbent has ambitious plans for supplying not only the plain-dwellers and the island ship on its way up and down the South Atlantic, but also the "saints" who work in the Falklands garrison, and would welcome regular deliveries of pumpkins, yams and sweet potatoes. He even has his eve on markets in London. With the RAF air-bridge in place, with fax, telephone and soon (he hopes) the Internet connected to his cyric in mid-ocean, he could perhaps establish a mail-order business, to give customers "direct access to what is probably the cleanest farm in the world".

## A simple fisherman? There's no such thing

Jan Mackinnon is an international businessman – a fisherman off the west coast of the Scottish Highlands. Hamish Scott observes a day in the life of a hunter grappling with the elements ... and global currency fluctuations.

Standing on the deck of Jan Mackinnon's fishing boat as we pull out from the harbourside at Arisaig, it is easy to appreciate why the west Highlands have always been a place apart. From half a mile offshore, the houses of the village and the shoreline crofts are dwarfed by barren mountains that recede into an infinity of wilderness.

It was the beauty of this aweinspiring landscape that attracted Ian to the Rough Bounds of Inverness-shire 12 years ago, for Arisaig, like any west coast village, has amongst its population a high proportion of "incomers" seeking a new start in life far from all the usual pressures of the modern world.

But scenery alone does not provide a living, and work is hard to find in such communities. The land is far too poor for cultivation; the tourist season is finished by October; and with the closest town an hour's drive along a narrow, winding road, few other options are available. For lan, as for many of Ari-

saig's inhabitants, the only opportunities lie out to sea.

On a perfect autumn morning there are half-a-dozen boats beside our own navigating the North Channel. There are divers after razor-fish and scallops, dinghies heading for the coves where whelks and oysters may be found, launches like our own piled high with prawn and lobster creels. The plats de fruits de mer on sale in some of Europe's finest restaurants feature scafood caught by this flotilla of small, ramshackle craft. In the wheelhouse lan checks the echosounder as he brews a pot of tea. "It's man the hunter off to work," he says with a grin, "and there's no hiding from the

In the summer, lan's favoured quarry was prawns. At £30 a stone, the price is good and steady, but with recent catches proving to be disappointing, lan has decided that the breeding grounds now need a season of respite to allow stocks to recover. Also, in the autumn months the big clam-dredgers are coming out in force, scouring the deeper sea-bed day and night. They will not even notice if they also dredge a "fleet" of Ian's creels, worth £1,000, so we're off to move the creels into safer inshore waters.

He already has several fleets around the rocks where velvet crabs are found. The Spaniards are particularly partial to the little velvet crab. It's just the right

Our first fleet is moored off Camusdarrach. We're looking at a sweep of empty sand dunes, with the jagged peaks of Knoydart in the distance, as the first of 50 creeks is winched into the boat. Half a dozen velvets fall into the crate, red eyes furiously glinting, claws waving in defiance. Some edible brown crabs are thrown back, too small to be landed. Also a small octopus, squirting ink as its tentacles pump down towards the safety of the sea-bed. "Look at this," says Ian, holding up a silvery wrasse the size of his thumb. "We used to get £2.50 each for these. Fish farms bought them to eat lice off salmon when the chemicals they used were banned. Now they're back on chemicals under some new name, and the fish aren't worth a penny." He tosses it back into the sea.

And so the hunt goes on. From Luinga Mhor to Loch nan Uamh, winching creeks, sorting through the catch and shooting back the fleets into new positions. The tide is turning and the small boat pitches in a heavy swell. Not many days are as as fine as this in the west Highlands. The only weather that will keep I an at home is when stepping out of doors is like falling from a boat and drowning on the doorstep. Otherwise he goes to work, cursing the conditions and trying not to think too

hard of the risks. By the time the sun is setting over Rhum, we've gathered up the last of the prawn creels and repositioned them

where Ian's instinct and the echosounder suggest that velvets may be found. Back in the bay of Arisaig, the day's catch must be sorted. Just a dozen giant prawns, weighing up to half-apound apiece. Perhaps there will be more around in spring, but no one can be certain. For the moment there are velvet crabs; 200kg to be transferred into sacks and hung on buoys in readiness for the truck that will transport them down to Barcelona in acrated vats of seawater. By the weekend they'll be tapas on the menu of some pavement café.

To the small group of French cyclists watching from the quay, Ian might appear to be a simple local fisherman with no concerns beyond the beautiful westcoast horizon, rather than a businessman working in an international market. But in order to survive he must keep an eye on fluctuating currencies and everchanging European regulations - and he must even keep abreast of current eating fads. Last month he went down to London to check out the moules frites in Belgos, for he's thinking of diversifying

into mussel farms. Few businessmen, however, are subject to the same elemental forces that affect the daily life of Arisaig. As Ian hoses down his boat there's a gale warning on the radio. He looks up briefly when the Hebrides are mentioned "Sometimes," he admits, "I do dream about a bank job, with a cut-price mortgage and a pension."

# THE INDEPENDENT

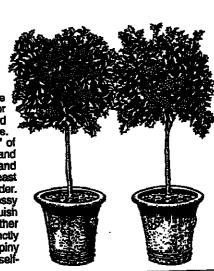
### 2 Miniature **Standard Hollies**

for only £21.95 — inc. p&p

Hollies with their beautiful leaves are among the most ornamental of shrubs. They are ideal for growing in containers on a patio or sheltered beloony and will thrive in sun or partial shade. The shrubs have 40cm tall stems with a "ball" of colourly tollege on top. To been shrubs therefore colourful follage on top. To keep shrubs dwarf and to maintain shape, prune between April and August. You can grow them in containers at least 25cm wide or plant them in good soil in the border. The two varieties are "Blue Angel" with glossy green leaves in summer which take on a bluish purple colour with the approach of colder weather and winter. The main stem also has a distinctly bluish winter tinge. "Aleska" has glossy, spiny leaves and white edges. Both varieties are self

pollinating and will produce a good crop of red berries in winter from the Plea late summer flowers. One of each variety supplied.

How to order Spalding (01775) 762345 for enquiries and 24 hour credit card order service OR fill in coupon quoting your Access/Visa/ Mastercard number or send with crossed cheque/ PO, NO CASH please, to: THE INDEPENDENT 'HOLLY TREE' OFFER, P.O. BOX 50, SPALDING, LINCOLNSHIRE PE11 3SX We deliver to addresses in the U.K. only. Offer subject to availability. Please allow 28 days for delivery.



Collection(s) Holly @ \$21.95 each l enclose my cheque/PO (address on back) made payable to: Newspaper Publishing IND804, or please debit my Access/ Visa/Mastercard account with the sum of £ My certi number is: Please use BLOCK CAPITALS. Excity date. \_ vernec(McMrs/Miss/Ms) \_

SIGNABLINE
Orders to: THE INDEPENDENT HOLLY TREE OFFER.
PO BOX 50, SPALDING, LINCOLNSHIRE, PE11 35X.
Please tick this box if you do not wish to recove figure moutings, from NEWSPAPER PUBLISHINGS PLC. or from companies approved by NEWSPAPER PUBLISHINGS PLC UNDROA

Reg. in England 1908967 Newspaper Publishing at

### The Gospel according to Pru



Inside a huge, shiny kitchen with banks of ovens, hobs and worktops, 32 novices don aprons and start to study passages from their Bibles. Sally Staples joins a cookery

The text in question is from Leith's "Cookery Bible", written by Prue Leith and the school's principal, Caroline Waldegrave. It is given to each studeut on enrolment. Tonight is the sixth out of 10 lessons and on the menu is prawn pilau and chocolate profiteroles.

Most of the students have come straight from work, as the session starts at 6.30pm, and several have brought bottles of wine with them. Licensing laws and the need to keep a clear head mean that the rookie cooks may drink only two small glasses.

No one would feel out of place on this course. There are bankers, solicitors, students, housewives and secretaries, and the age range is 18 to retirement. What they all have in common are an interest in cooking and a general lack of expertise.

The course takes nothing for granted. The proper way to boil an egg and peel and dice an onion are given the same attention as the trickier business of preparing the choux pasty for the profiteroles. Naturally, there are no food mixers in this kitchen; beating eggs and whipping cream are done by hand.

Before the action begins, teacher Jacqui Thomas runs through the preparations for the menu and advises on timing. In front of each student the exact ingredients have been weighed out in advance. All they have to do is make the dishes and then take them home to eat for supper.

Victoria Shaw, a solicitor, has high praise for the course because it includes all the ingredients, and the teaching ratio is one to eight. "I also find coming here after work helps me to unwind," she says. "And the great thing is being able to eat what you have made. The recipes are for two people, so I usually ask a friend round afterwards."

Colin Stanley, a widower, works as an environmental health consultant. His son had already done the Leith course and he was so impressed by the resuits that he decided to give it a try. "I'm generally better at eating than at cooking, but I've been surprised at the things we've done. Last week we made lemon curd. I'm not a lemon curd man, but this tasted nothing like the sort you buy in the shops. It was

an elixir. The time before that we cooked pork in a marsala sauce. It was delicious. Before this, my only brush with cooking was an Army cadet course."

As the students chop and dice and bake, Jacqui and her colleague Claire Macdonald move round to offer tips: a circle of grease-proof paper over onions frying in butter helps keep their colour, and allows them to soften without burning: a delicious fish stock can be made from prawn shells heated in water and wine.

Susan Oldfleld, who works as a PA, has come on the course because she thinks it is high time she learned to cook. "I have been married for three years and I've got a dinner service I never use because I can't cook properly," she says. "Coming here is a

Several young women are here because they knew. revelation." only two recipes which they used for every dinner party, and wanted to show off some new discoveries to their friends.

Hannah Coleman, who works in banking, is get-ting married next year. "I felt I ought to know how to cook for my husband," she says. "I like experimenting, but I thought I should know the basics. Whenever I have tried to follow a recipe it has never told me how to get the sauce to look the way it did in the picture. This course has made me feel a lot more confident."

Charlie Bellhouse, 18, is the youngest of the cooks. In his gap year between school and university he signed up for the course to help him land a job working in a skiing chalet. "I was completely ignorant when I came," he said. "I couldn't fry an egg, and I didn't know what they meant by seasoning. But everyone has been so helpful."

As the evening progresses the cooks get busier, but there is a triendly, related atmosphere. No one appears to have a disaster. The choux pastry cases come out of the oven looking highly professional. The pilau rice bubbles away comfortingly as it cooks in the fish stock. Some cooks have problems whipping the cream to exactly the right consistency, but most manage.

And at the end of the session everyone washes up the utensils, bowls and plates they have used which the women all agreed was excellent training

The beginners' course at Leith's School of Food and Wine, 21 St Albans Grove, London W8 5BP, runs for 10 three-hour sessions and costs £350, inclusive of ingredients. For details, call 0171-229 0177.

### **GAMES**

### BAWN O'BEIRNE RANELAGH DON'T JUNK IT - USE IT

The next time you go to a Swedish lifestyle store and wonder whether to buy one of those elegant wooden knife racks, then decide not to because you don't need a knife rack, why not go home and make one satisfying as making something that you have just saved money by not buying because you didn't need it in the first place.

1. Cut four pieces of wood long and deep enough for your longest and deepest knives. Or 2cm by 4.2 cm, if that makes more sense. (The wood may be found in any good skip.)

2. Glue them to a piece of plywood or MDF. Leave enough space between the pieces to slide the knives in. (A knitting ncedle or folded cardboard will act well as a

3. Now cut around the plywood, leaving a small lip at the handle end.

4. Turn the rack over and screw screws



into the top and bottom of each piece of wood. (If you really want to be fancy, use mirror screws which will then act as feet for the rack to stand on.)

5. Take two lengths of thin moulding and panel pins and tack the moulding across the top of the rack. This stops heavy-handled knives from flipping out.

#### FACTS OF THE WEEK WILLIAM HARTSTON

I have been intrigued this week by an unpretentious little book from The Economist entitled "Pocket World in Figures". With pages about 19cm high by 9cm wide, it really will fit into the average pocket. It contains all the stuff you would expect to find in such a book: populations, GDPs, principal exports, imports exchange rates and energy consumption for every country, but also includes nearly 100 slim pages of tables ranging from the countries with the highest divorce rates to those who spend the most on recorded music.

Here are just a few of the things I have learnt The country with the highest rate of serious assualts per head

Belgium generates more nitrous oxide per head of population

The highest fertility rate among women is to be found on the West Bank and Gaza.

The Norwegians top the league of book-buyers, spending \$137 a year per head.

Although the Czechs drink the most beer and the French the most wine. Luxemburgers imbibe most alcohol altogether. There are 8.3 people in the average household in Gabon.

Qatar has the lowest marriage rate in the world. Guatemala and Nicaragua share the lowest divorce rate. There are 197.7 men per 100 women in Qatar. There are 85.1 men per 100 women in Latvia.

#### PANDORA MELLY GAMES PEOPLE PLAY

Mary Killen (won't give her age), writer, journalist, social commentator.

I'm no good at games. In fact, my coordination is so bad that walking along the pavement I'll often collide with other pedestrians. Maybe I've got some condition. But to carry on, table-tennis is the only game I'm any good at, and I quite like the noise of whatever the ball's made of smacking into the table.

My sister and I used to play in our garage in the north of Ireland, and I suppose I developed my skills. Perhaps it's like riding a bicycle - you never forget how to do it.

I have played with Craig Brown at his house in Suffolk, and because he's a giant baby, the whole place is a pleasuredrome. There are things to do in every room: children's football and also a ping-pong

Anyway, I hadn't played for some time. and when Craig said: "Do you want a game?" I said, "I'm hopeless, because I'd forgotten that I was ever any good at it. At So Craig flicked a ball down the middle, and I found myself flicking it back. I was able to lean over and hit the ball so that it just toppled down again, and sprang out of Craig's reach in a tricky way - as if I was possessed by a table-tennis ghost or something like that.

actual tennis I can't even return one ball.

To my absolute amazement, the score was 21-4. Normally I present myself as not competitive, but I was absolutely ecstatic and this horrible new character came over me, which crowed and shouted "Ha!!!"

But the punch-line of the story is, when we changed ends for the second round, Craig won 21-1. It turned out that the sun was glaring in your eyes at that end of the table, but the brief moment of triumph was

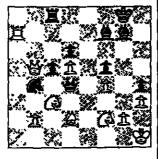
For advice on how to act at such moments, consult 'Dear Mary ... Your Social Dilemmas Resolved by Mary Killen (Consuble, £9.99), based on her column in 'The Spectator'.

### CHESS: WILLIAM HARTSTON

If there is one thing above all others that characterises the play of great champions, it is how active they manage to keep their pieces. In the games of Bobby Fischer and Garry Kasparov, one constantly senses the high value they place on the initiative. Pawn weaknesses are tolerated, material is even sacrificed, all in the cause of maintaining the energy of the pieces. Even in the games of a champion such as Karpov - for whom positional correctness and control are more important than anything - one sees that his pieces may not be swaggering into threatening positions, but they are always within reach of something useful to do.

That is what makes today's game so impressive. A few days ago, we saw a game in which the BCF Girls' squad snatched a draw from a lost endgame against Garry Kasparov. Here, from the same event, is the way the BCF Boys' team achieved the same result - but they did it by playing just like Kasparov

Moving from a King's Indian Defence into a Benoni - both Kasparov favourites - they found an interesting idea in 9...Bd7!? to tempt a4, giving the b4 square to the black knight. Its arrival there made 13...h6 possible, since 14. Bxhô Bxhô 15. Qxhô



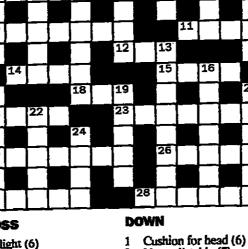
allows Nc2+. Black fought for the initiative with 20...f5, but it was their 35...Qd4! that was most striking. White was allowed a combination that left him a pawn ahead, but 41...Nxd5! neatly forced a perpetual check from the queen on e1 and g3.

Black: BCF Boys 1 d4 Nf6 23 දක්ව ඉක්වී 24 Qd1 h4 2 c4 e6 3 Ne3 Bg7 25 Bh5 Nxh5 4 e4 d6 5 t3 0-0 27 Bd2 Rxe1 6 Bg5 ය් 28 Rxe1 Qd8 7 d5 e6 29 axb5 axb5 8 Qd2 exd5 30 Ral Qf6 9 cxd5 Bd7 31 Ra7 Be8 10 a4 Na6 32 Qe2 Bf7 11 Nge2 Nb433 Qxh5 Qd4 12 Ng3 Re8 34 Rxf7 Kxf7 13 Be2 h6 35 Qd7+ Kg6 14 Be3 Nh7 36 Qe6+ Bf6 15 0-0 h5 37 Qxc8 Qxf2 16 Rael Rc8 38 Qg8+ Bg7 17 Nh1 Qa5 39 Qe6+ Bf6 18 Nf2 a6 40 Nc2 Kg7 19 h3 Kh8 41 Bc3 Nxd5 42 Oxd5 Bxc3 20 [4 [5 21 Kh1 Nf6 43 Nxc3 Qe1+ 22 Bt3 b5

#### CONCISE CROSSWORD



ACROSS White: Garry Kasparov Delight (6) Wound marks (5) Sensational (5) Large house (7) 26 Qxh5+ Kg8 11 Poker stake (4) 12 Nevertheless (3) 14 High point (4) 18 Obscure (3) 21 Weapons (4) 23 Non-professional (7) 25 Abbey church (7) 26 Steer (5) 27 Compass point (5) 28 Deadly (6)



10 Porridge ingredient (7) 15 Precious stone (4)

Unpredictable (7) Made unhappy (8) Transmit (4) Foreigner (5) Vocalist (6) Suggest (5) 13 Percussion instrument 16 Flaw (7) 17 Fish (6) 19 Wed (5)

20 Distressing experience

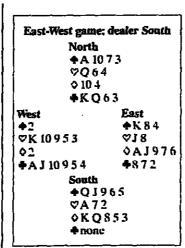
22 Underground worker (5)

24 Engrave using acid (4)

Solution to yesterday's Concise Crossword:

ACROSS: 1 Guaws, 4 Trill (Nostril), 10 Adverse, 11 Libel, 12 Corgi, 13 Decorum, 15 Onyx, 17 Spare, 19 Isaac, 22 Watt, 25 Corsets, 27 Enter, 29 Rough, 30 Omnibus, 31 Start, 32 Smith DOWN: 2 Never, 3 Warrior, 5 Relic, 6 Liberia, 7 Watch, 8 Ready, 9 Plume, 14 Exit, 16 Physics, 16 Exit, 16 Physics, 17 Exit, 18 Physics, 1 Newt, 18 Pursuit, 20 Sternum, 21 Scorn, 23 Ascot, 24 Wrist, 26 Ether,

#### BRIDGE: ALAN HIRON



West had a difficult lead to find at trick three on this deal. There was a solution to his problem, but even seeing all four hands the winning defence is not obvious.

South had opened One Spade and, eschewing such modern ideas as a Michaels Cuc-bid, West overcalled with Two Clubs.

Stretching slightly, North raised to Four Spades and, although both East and West might have been tempted to contest, they were deterred by the vulnerability.

West led 02 against Four Spades; East took his ace and returned **O**J for his partner to ruff South's queen. So far, so good, but what now? A heart at this point would give declarer two tricks in the suit and dummy's third heart would go away on the king of diamonds later on.

In practice, West led his A., but South ruffed and was able to dispose of his losing hearts on dummy's clubs.

It would have been a difficult play to find at the table, but now you have all the clues. If both A and any heart fail, what is left? Yes, West can defeat the contract by leading #J at this point. Declarer gets one discard from hand but still has a spade and a heart to lose.

#### SCULPTURE PUZZLE PUZZLE

A few weeks ago, we set the task of creating an appropriate anagram of "Darth Vader Sculpture Puzzle". Here are some of the more beguiling entries:

Vlad sure captured HRT (Helen Martin): Lecturers hard up - TV ad (R.W.Cragg, who also came up with the medicinal: Ruptured? Drs have tale); Depraved cult art rush (which C. Rumble thought neatly described the competition); VCR has pale dud turret (D.M.Howle, who also produced: Starlet carved up

Hurd); Ruler had used PVC tart (Simon Pressey); Crude rat had vet slurp (Lynne Clark); Perv had cultured arts (Sandra Horn); Prude TV star had lucre (Arthur Clark): turd spurt reached lay (Jonathan White); Hard-up reds cut travel (Mrs F.M.Agassiz); V.

ruptured cathedrals (John Kelly). But the one we liked best was: "Cult art served up hard", which wins Donald Hurt of Newton Abbot a Darth Vader Sculpture Puzzle from The Really Useful Games Company.

#### BACKGAMMON: CHRIS BRAY

I have written before of the excellent work that BIBA (British Isles Backgammon Association) is doing for the game in this country. By organising tournaments with entry fees that all players can afford it provides something which very few other countries have amateur tournaments where anyone can come along and play, irrespective of their level of skill. Under the leadership of Michael Crane BIBA continues to go from strength to strength, and now boasts some 700 members, with well over 100 regularly entering their

The schedule of events for 1998 has just been published with more tournaments than ever before. The first of these will be held from 2-4 January at the Stakis Brighton Metropole Hotel and features the added attraction of two two-hour seminars from Paul Magriel, former world champion and author of the definitive book Backgammon.

Five years ago I was lucky enough to have the benefit of some private lessons with Paul. His understanding of the game and his ability to pass on that knowledge to others are rare qualities and I certainly benefitted significantly from those sessions. Most of us learn haphazardly, the majority of our learning coming through playing. If you consistently play with the same group of people your playing strength is unlikely to improve very much. Studying books is a marked improvement because it provides structure to the learning experience. Even better than studying books is to have concepts, strategies and tactics explained to you by someone who really understands what they are talking about and can communicate clearly. Half a dozen one-hour lessons

can radically improve anyone's playing strength. Seminars by top players have become very popular at leading US events and it is good to see that feature now being included in BIBA tournaments. I would recommend to anyone who really wants to improve their play and understanding of the game to start the New Year with a visit to Brighton. Paul Magriel will provide excellent value for money and his seminars, in conjunction with what promises to be an exciting tournament, will be just the way to recover from those

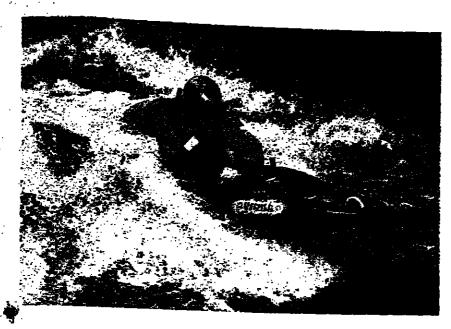
New Year hangovers! I will certainly be there. Full details of BIBA and the tournaments from: Michael Crane, BIBA, 2, Redbourne Drive, Lincoln, LN2 2HG. Tel: 01522-546993.

المكذا من الاحل

then Norman Lar

and to my rescue

### 15/OUTDOOR













### How to master the white magic

Thrills, spills, and getting soaked to the skin - Eric Kendall is introduced to the wild world of white water canoeing.

Russell is a canoeist. White water is his medium. A first glance at this racing, wet world might not persuade you to join him, out if you do, the tug of the waves and experience of a stopper, even a small one, will bring you back for more. This plunging whirl of water, where the river's flow is violently reversed, constitutes both dream and nightmare for canoeists. A stopper grabs and then holds you, and can flip you all too easily. Then your rolling skills come into play, as much a test of nerve as of technique, as every extra inverted second increases the chance of your helmeted head clashing with a rock downstream.

Serious canoeing is a far cry from the from an enormous towelling bag complete

school-day experiences of ex-guides, scouts and management trainees. Money, in the shape of dry suit tops, snug-fitting wet suits and other state-of-the-art equipment can go a long way to making this a warm, fun experience, even though peak season on British rivers is November, when the anglers have packed up and the water is high.

Getting into all this gear is a performance in itself, which transforms outdoorsy types like Russell into strutting, strangely Elizabethan figures with tightly moulded skullcaps (extra warmth beneath a freedraining helmet) and wetsuit-stockinged legs. Spray-decks - the stretchy Neoprene covers worn around the waist that prevent the canoe filling up during the good bits ~ complete the picture, flapping like rubberised tutus in the breeze.

Russell spares onlookers any embarrassment during his transformation, changing on a little mat by the car, head poking

with arm slits, allowing the whole process It's a sport to do in groups for support to be undertaken in the presence of women and children. Throw in some knotted hankies, buckets and spades and you could be on the beach at Scarborough both air and water are nearly as cold. Out come the contact lenses, on go the bottlethick glasses, strapped into place; it's a battle zone out there, but a less likely look-

ing armada would be hard to imagine. On the water it's a different story. Half human, half cance, the bobbing craft play out a balancing act with the power of the river, using it and fighting it in turn. Going against the flow is an explosive spurt, a mixture of raw power, paddling technique and feel for the run of the water, searching out eddies that give respite from the irresistible progress of the river.

From initial forays on calm, flat water and even heated pools to master essential techniques including the roll, progression to the choppy stuff can be surprisingly fast. Just add water.

the knowledge that two people are chasing after you as you sweep downstream, bottom up, is comforting and often of practical help; lose or break your paddle and you're at the mercy of the flow until someone or something - such as the river bottom grabs you.

The variety of craft available reflects the diversity of the canoeing world, most of which is driven by competition. For white water canoeing, this means the slalom, performed round dangling poles, and wild water racing, though canoeists who travel can mix plenty of white water into their

But the simplicity of canoeing, handed down from its Eskimo origins - stretched seal skins, not fibreglass - is an aspect that canoe designers will never get away whatever materials they use.

This is messing about in boats at its best.

**Getting started** 

First attempts are often made in the warmth of the local swimming-pool more chloriney-blue than white water. This is often the place to make contact with a club; youth services and schools are the other main starting-points.

The British Canoe Union (0115 982 1100) can provide details of approved centres all over the country which run courses. The BCU is based at Holme Pierrepont, Nottingham, where the National Watersports Centre has a man-made white water slalom course and hosts national and international events as well as providing training facilities.

In north Wales, Plas y Brenin (01690 720394) runs a five-day "white water, sea and surf course for competent flat water sports Centre (01248 670964) also caters

for all levels. Britain has plenty of white water and

even more flat water, for learning the basics. When canoeing abroad, save yourself and the locals from confusion by remembering that a "kayak" (from the Eskimo) is a craft paddled by a double blade; "cance" is paddled with a single blade (from the birchbark canoe). In Britain, "cance" is the general name applied to boats that can be carried (portaged) by their crew.

Even the most ludicrous optimist should face the fact that getting wet is part of the fun, so warm clothes to put on after canoeing are almost as vital as the right kit on the water. Surgical gloves and Vascline can also add to the fun, apparently, affeviating chafing injuries to the hands. Bring your own synthetic, long-sleeved thermal wear and fleece to put on under specialist items such as wetsuits, which should be supplied paddlers; Plas Menai National Water- as part of a course: it's worth fighting fellow pupils tooth and nail for the best-fitting clobber at the start. There will be plenty of time for group bonding later.

#### **RE-CYCLED**

### When Norman Lamont came to my rescue

Where Kensington Park Road joins Pembridge Gardens, the flow of traffic from Notting Hill Gate swoops round on to a mini-roundabout that crowds with commuters bustling to and from the Tube station. On a rainy morning it's a treacherous and surprising melée of London life. For good reason, then, today my bicycle was by my side and wheeled carefully across the busy junction. Ignorant of any weather forecast. I had been unprepared for the rain and was now dripping wet. Then who should come waddling across the road but Norman Lamont, in pristine pinstriped condition, holding an umbrella aloft.

My cheeky greeting, "Some would say you're not wet enough!" prompted a friendly smile and the umbrella shared. We walked towards the Tube - I assume that that is where he was going - and I had the impression of a shrewd and kindly man, intent on some business that must disappoint him, way below the heights where once he was a main player.

"Oh, who'd say that then?" was his robust response. I was encouraged to ask, what did he think of the new leader? What reply I expected, I do not know. I'm not sure I know what response I'd give if asked the same question - and in those doubts, perhaps, is the essence of the answer. Loyally, though: "Oh, he's wonderful isn't be?" I suggested that even in view of recent events, it would have been disastrous for the Tories if Ken Clarke had been chosen, and I would swear that Mr Lamont's face dropped slightly, which seemed in contradiction to his earlier view.

We parted company with a nod and a wave. It makes no sense and is at least discourteous to try to wheel a bicycle around such a busy corner, so I was confined to the road. I was left with a strong sense of a man grievously wronged, yet intensely loyal, Someone who took it on the chin on behalf of colleagues, and who remains rather bemused at the way

that fate has treated him. - What cruel judgements have been made of this man! In that instant of unexpected confrontation, when one's guard is down, integrity is evident or not. I judge entirely from instinct, with no qualification except my own experience, and I want to be more generous than others. I think his intellectual and technical skills have never been in doubt. I don't see how his courage of fortitude can be questioned. Perhaps it is only in self-serving skills that he has failed, in which case it may well be the residents of Kingston and surroundings who are the real losers. In the way Mr Lamont offered me his umbrella I see a simple but appropriate metaphor. This is a generous yet prudent man. Perhaps we shall see more of him. Paul Reynolds

### On the trail of the eel and the black toad

From cider in a pottery to home-made lemonade in an almonry, John Shearlaw takes a walk around the Somerset

Somerset in late autumn is cider country. Everywhere there is the tangy whiff of freshly pressed apples. This six-mile circular walk round the heart of the Somerset Levels begins and ends with cider. Along the way it uncovers other mysteries of the moor, once a teeming centre of commerce. now one of the world's most important sites for wetland wildlife.

Cider-maker Bruce Bond and Mary Kembery, a potter, are open all year at Smocklands, just outside the village of Drayton, some eight miles east of Taunton. Bruce's potent brew, Black Toad, takes its name from a creature that survived 30 years in an old cider sump. For 50p a pint, takeaway container included, you can decide for yourself whether to feel sorry for him.

It's downhill from here and right on to School Street, towards Midelney Manor (c1490), which stands on a small rise. All around is the crisscrossed landscape of the moor, with drainage ditches (or rhynes) bisecting the fields like pencil lines.

Turn left at the bridge, signposted to Langport, and follow the raised bank of the Isle river to Midelney pumping station and the Parrett river. Mussel shells crunch underfoot, dredged from the river to make a path.

Herons crank along the banks, searching for the Levels' most clusive wildlife treasure - the cel.

It's a mile-long stroll through the willow banks to Muchelney bridge. Cross it to visit the medieval monastic settlement of Muchelney Abbey.

In the adjacent parish church of St Peter and St Paul a painted ceiling, dating from the early 1600s, includes surprisingly topless angels. At the nearby almonry complex, refreshment is at hand, probably for the first time since the Dissolution. Smoked eel, chocolate cake and home-made lemonade attract visitors all year round.

After returning to the river, recrossing it and turning right, the path follows the Parrett to Huish Bridge. Here it is swollen by the Yeo, draining the King's Moor Levels. By mid-



winter much of the pasture will be flooded, and Langport will again become the fabled "island in the sea".

The valley narrows here. Langport's elevation (mountainous by Levels standards) brought prosperity in ancient times when much of the area was water. After the draining of the Levels, the Parrett became a major trade artery, by the 18th century the town was a vital link with London. The local industrialist George Stuckey and the economist Thomas Bagehot formed their first company here; even in 1909 Stuckey's Bank was second only to the Bank of England.

The glory days are long gone, but the river may yet restore the area's fortunes. The Parrett Trail now runs for nearly 70 miles, from Dorset to the Bristol Channel at Bridgwater.

That's a long-distance challenge for another day or three; for now we cross Huish Bridge and turn left to Huish Episcopi church, where a magnificent Burne-Jones window stands in the south aisle. At the crossroads there's another relic: a disused cider barn, with outdoor seating handily built into the wall. The unmarked road up Langport Hill soon passes under the old town portcullis, topped with a dramatic hanging chapel. Built for the town's apprentices, it served as a schoolroom before its relatively recent conversion to a Masonic lodge.

After passing Langport church. whose graveyard on the escarpment holds the tombstone of Stuckey, bear left at the gatchouse, then left again down the public footpath marked Whatley Lane. An alley of steep steps

western King's Sedgemoor and the low Dorset hills on the horizon; opposite is the unspoiled tiled roofscape of Langport's mercantile heart.

Cross the car park at the bottom of the hill and bear left at the railings to rejoin the river bank. A quarter of a mile further on, cross the three-span bridge, keeping to the right of the road. Pass a fine old warehouse, and turn left after 200 yards into Frog Lane. The unmade track passes Tucker's Farm, with superb views across the wetlands to Muchelney Church.

Immediately after a sharp right turn lie two lots of buildings; straightaway take a gate into the fields on the left. Have faith; this is the (unmarked) beginning of the footpath back to Drayton. Strike out for the copse clearly visible; the right of way passes this and a second, larger, copse to the left, then follow the line of the hedge to a metalled road three-quarters of a mile farther on. Then turn left to

Behind you is the landscaped park of Midelney Place; in front a green wrought-iron bench is conveniently placed to admire one of Somerset's

frames a breathtaking view of the .most surprising vistas, a horizontal panorama of field and flooded Level, from which church towers rise from every quadrant

> A few hundred yards farther on, in the shadow of another tower, lies the welcoming sanctuary of the Drayton

Map: Ordnance Survey Landranger

193 (Taunton & Lyme Regis) Further information is available in a recently published booklet. The River Parrett Trail, price £5.95. Copies are available locally, or ring the Tourism Unit, South Somerset District Council on 10935 462501. Parking is free in Drayton, or leave your car by arrangement in the cur park of the

Drayton Arms. Refreshment: The Stable Tea Rooms (01458 250003) at Muchelney are open for light lunches and teas all year, Black Toad Cider and the Somerset Countryware gallery in Drayton can be visited all year, but ring first in winter (01458 251640), A Grade II listed pub. the friendly Drayton Arms 101458 250233) serves a variety of bor smacks and home-cooked meals all year, with pheasant a speciality.

### THE INDEPENDENT

Win the full set of MGM Bond-Films and a Sony SLVE220 Video Recorder

Do not miss this one opportunity to win the full collection of seventeen films, all featuring the infamous breath-taking stimts, deadly weapons and serty women - all unique to Bond, James Bond - the most famous secret agent in the world.

We have one set to win which We have one set to win which includes; On Her Majesty's Servet Service; For Your Eyes Only; Octopusty; A View to a Kill; The Living Daylights; Licence to Kill; The Golden Gau; The Spy Who Loved Me; Diamonds Are Forever; You Only Live Twice; Goldfinger; Monoraker; From Russia With Love; Live and Let Die; Dr No and Goldeneye.

With this prize comes a top of the range Sony SIVE220 Video Recorder - including multi-band remote control and Video+ to name just a few of its features.

To enter this competition simply dial 0930 564 007, answer the

following question on line leaving your name and full address:

Which film saw Pierce Brosnan's

debut as Bond.

Calls cost 50p per minute at all times. Winner proper at support other land on a 19 November 1997. Usual Newspaper Publishing rules apply. Editor's decrease of the land.

# When gold medallist Tom McKean was left feeling as naked as a couple of hotel guests



MIKE ROWBOTTOM

ON THE TORONTO SKYDOME LIFT They were at it again in the sponsorship logos on the after being beaten on his blind Toronto SkyDome recently. buttocks. Ever since an enamoured couple availed themselves of the facilities in one of the stadium's inward looking hotel rooms four years ago - temporarily diverting the interest of several thousand Toronto Blue Jays fans and a number of the players - the management had issued warnings.

Be aware, they say, that if you book certain rooms you wili be on public view unless dimmest of exhibitionists couldn't fail to see the possibilities of that scenario: earlier this year another goggle-eyed gathering got the benefit of some heaving flesh.

It can't be long before the cameras are picking up discreet

What once was extraordinary has become almost routine. Seen one pair of Sky-Dome bonkers, seen them all.

No one, however, is likely to match Tom McKean's performance in the Toronto Sky-Dome at the 1993 World Indoor Athletics Championship. All his clothes remained on:

he just felt naked.

Tom McKean. He was an athlete of great talents, but unyou close the curtains. Even the fortunately for him, one was for being in the wrong place at the

> Even his arrival on the British middle-distance scene was compounded by a hint of misjudgement when he had to settle for silver at the 1986 European Championships

side by Seb Coe - "This little shit" as McKean referred to him only half humourously when he spoke to the television

people at track-side. À year later the Glaswegian, who had spent his early years as a labourer, was given a working over by the tabloids, who labelled him McFlop after his tactically inept display in the World Championship final.

There was more of the same for this genial man in 1991, when, seemingly assured of the second qualifying place in the opening round of the World Championships, he slowed to a virtual standstill -"Save it, Tommy, save it" - and was put out by another runner who beat him to the line. "Oh Christ! Oh no!"

Let's be fair here. Tommy sometimes got it right. In 1990 he won the European 800 metres titles both indoors and out. And in 1993 within the vast enclosure of the SkyDome, he became world indoor

It was to be his last major victory, but he will never be able to look back upon it with untrammelled joy.

champion.

I had forgotten about what happened in the aftermath of that race until I revisited the SkyDome earlier this year for the anticlimatic spring challenge between Donovan Bailey and Michael Johnson.

To travel between the floor of the arena and the viewing galleries above you have to take the lift. And as I waited with growing impatience to

go down and see what either man had to say for himself afterwards, I remembered how I had suffered similar frustration during my visit in 1993.

The earth is round. Swallows migrate. And the Toronto SkyDome lifts are desperately, inexplicably slow.

It so happened that I was sharing my phone four years ago with an esteemed colleague from Glasgow's Herald newspaper. He, not surprisingly, had established a good working relationship with his city's foremost international athlete. So when McKean wanted to pass on the good news of his win to his coach and family back home, it seemed only natural that he should pop up to the press box to avail

himself of the facility.

he sat beside me. No. I didn't. He was clearly emotional as he talked to his wife. "Aye .. it's great .. aye .. is she there? Put go now! Look!"

My friend's voice intruded briefly. "Tom... I think they're getting ready for the cere-

He acknowledged the information, and bent his head once more to the phone. Now he was speaking with

quiet intensity to his coach, Tommy Boyle. "Aye... I know... but I didn't, did I?" My friend called out again. "Tom." McKean nodded and continued.

thank you... thanks... thank you for every-

thing. There was clearly activity

bearers. "Tom! Tom! You've got to

Television caught the drama well. As the national anthem boomed out, the Union flag rose over a podium with significant absence Only when the final bars were echiping through the SkyDome did a pale, track-suited figure scamper into the arena. "Oh

Christ! Oh no!" I looked at the phone in front of me - inert, innocent. There would have been a lungbursting spring along the brightly lit, carpet-tiled corridor. Then the lift. The doors. The static indicator. The doors. It didn't bear thinking

### **Robo-bowler delivers** the Waqar factor

Technology-free for much of its 250-year-old history, cricket has nevertheless embraced bowling machines for the last 50 years.

**Our Cricket** Correspondent disturbs the mothballs and dons his old batting gear to take on Merlin - the latest gizmo that attempts to make bowiers redundant.

Low on practice and high on foolhardiness, it was with some trepidation that I went to face Merlin in the indoor nets at the Middlesex Cricket Academy in Finchley. If the name does not strike quite the same chord of fear as Michael Holding or Malcolm Marshall, its through the air by means of swerve. connections with sorcery and a reputed top speed of 114mph still made my blood run cool.

If this seems a tad melodramatic, let me explain. The last time I faced a bowling machine, in Adelaide some 15 years ago, it nearly broke my arm. But that was not ex actly the machine's fault: the England coach, Norman Gifford, in trying to simulate the collective ire of Dennis Lillee, Jeff Thomson and Geoff Lawson, had set it to bowl houncers around 100 mph, and one simply didn't get up as much as I'd expected. I've had something of an

aversion to them ever since. Naturally, with technology overtaking itself every few weeks or so, improvements are bound to have been made, even in the field of bowling machines. Mind you, it was not so long ago that such machines were based on those crude catapults once used to sack walled cities in medieval times, and several batsmen came close to decapitation.

Of course. Merlin, despite being in the prototype stage, is not nearly so gauche. Imagine, then, a fairly mobile - the production model will be lighter - 8ft tall fridgefreezer on wheels, with a large porthole cut into the uppermost quarter of one side.

It is from this porthole that the ball, a hard dimpled plastic one, suddenly appears, sped on its 22-yard

voyage towards the batsman by unless the operator tells you what four rapidly rotating polythene wheels. According to its inventor, Henry Pryor, it is this four-wheel head that gives Merlin its clear superiority over the current manual two-wheel machines which came to cricket via baseball.

Housed beneath the porthole are the guts of the beast, a complex system of motors, hydraulies and computer modules that can drive and alter the speeds of the four wheels in relation to one another. This allows subtle as well as large variations in speed, length and type of delivery simply at the touch of a button. If only talented hotheads like Dominic Cork were as easy to handle.

But if Cork's forte a few seasons ago was to swing the ball by using the shine and the angle of the seam, Merlin's achieves movement This is caused by side spin, much like a hooked or sliced golf shot. Given that it can also cut and spin the ball at will, too, Merlin is clearly something of an überbowler.

### BY DEREK **PRINGLE**

The science bit over, it is on to the man versus machine contest that most of the 30-or-so-strong crowd - mainly coaches - have come to see. Occupying main billing is that Middlesex and England stalwart, Mike Gatting. First, though, your correspondent has, by dint of turning up early, the fortune to have a bat before the artificial surface and balls warm up and become less predictable.

With an amber light to tell you that the ball is loaded, and a green light to warn you it is on its way in one second's time, an early sighting is impossible and even a gentle 50mph delivery seems to be upon you before you can move.

Anticipating your opponent's actions is a vital part of every sport, and this is where the machine falls down in its bid to be human. Against Merlin, it is difficult to select a shot

the ball is about to do, which rather

defeats the object of most practice. That aside, the machine is impressively consistent and metronomically accurate. Indeed it is so mean-spirited, that the entrepreneurs behind it, Amar Sharma and John Hardy of Vanmatic, a company that produces automatic gearbox parts, should have contemplated calling it "Curtly" or even "Hadlee".

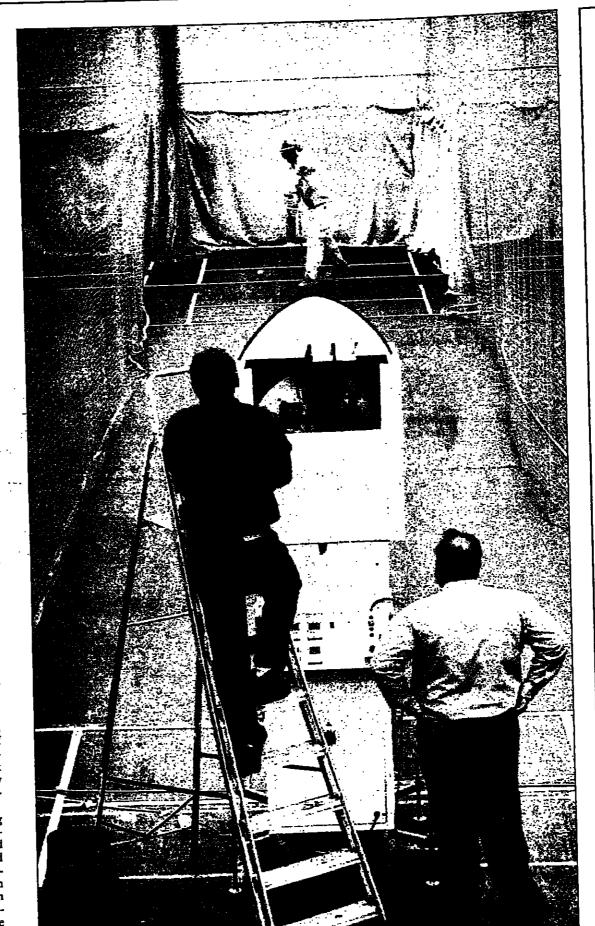
However, once I had got used to priming my bat and feet to move on the green light, Merlin became playable. Mind you, runs were extremely hard to come by and after 60 balls faced without the merest sniff of a long hop or half volley, I was about 20-1, the wicket falling tomagnificent leg-cutter that

bounced steeply and took the glove. It proved a happier outing than the one experienced by Gatting, who apart from taking several painful blows to the famous bread basket, was Waqar-ed at least three times by vicious inswinging yorkers. Being that good can have a downside, and Merlin's presence may discourage youngsters to bowl in the nets and try to become Waqar Younis them-

On the plus side, Merlin's consistency would make it a marvellous coaching tool for grooving certain shots or overcoming specific technical problems, something Mike Atherton worked on in New Zealand with rewarding consequences following his dismal tour of Zimbabwe.

According to its makers, this machine really can do almost anything, with the possible exception of recreating Shane Warne's wonderball and sledging the batsman. It can also be operated alone by means of a foot pedal from the batsman's end.

Its other great asset, providing there is electricity, is that it never gets tired, and even at 10 grand apiece, a pair - one for each end would solve most counties' rising wage bills by dispensing with spinners and seamers alike. With a bit of luck it could also be modified to keep the beers cold for the batsmen and fielders. Now that would be an investment worth



Line of fire: Derek Pringle's magic touch tests the Merlin bowling machine Photograph: Robert Hallam

#### SPORT ON THE INTERNET

#### Net gain to southern hemsiphere

Carrier .

STATES STATES

The Rugby Football Union started its own web site last week (promoting it with the worst pun of the month, "World Wide Webb Ellis") just in time for the autumn series of internationals.

It contains a question and answer piece with Lawrence Dallaglio, profiles of England's élite players, a quiz and information on Twickenham. It is disappointing that it does not have anything on England's team for today's match against Australia but, even allowing for its newness, it still is rather a good reflection of the RFU itself.

Just as England are likely to be bested by teams from the southern hemisphere on the pitch, so in cyberspace they also come second. The official Wallabies site is bright and brash as one would expect and includes a daily diary of the tour by Andrew "The Ox" Heath. The post-mortem after last weekend's defeat by Argentina was held by what else - a kangaroo

The official All Blacks site is a model of succinctness and information. It contains up-to-date news of the All Blacks' current tour, even including information of England's enforced team changes for their match against Australia, profiles of the players, (although I rather went off Carlos Spencer when I read that his favourite film is The Lion King, but he is a good rugby player for all that) and links to other sites.

The Springboks site has the usual mix of profiles, news and archive material. All the southern hemisphere sites have details of the recent Tri-Nations and Super 12 tournaments. Of the domestic sites, Scrum has results from all the major European club leagues and cup competitons, a daily news round-up and a promised audio link from Twickenham at the weekend. As a general site dealing with all aspects of northern hemisphere rugby union, this seems to be the best. The Allied Dunbar

Premiership has its own site for the top clubs and this contains full player stats for all the competing clubs.

Edward Abelson

**ADDRESSES** RFU official site hard official site http://www.rtu.com/
All Blacks official site http://www.nzhy.co.nz/
Wallables official site http://www.nzhy.com.au/
Springbolds official site http://www.sarfu.org.za/
Scrum

#### Shaggers, love rats and gold-diggers run to ground in Happy Eater mansions the film couldn't resist) David public eye you want to look show. Another cheap trick had "They'll shag anything."



**CHRIS MAUME** 

SPORT ON TV

It was a good thing that the makers of the Cutting Edge film
"Footballers' Wives" (Channel 4) did not restrict themselves to the spouses of the star-crossed élite. We got Suzi Walker, wife of Spurs goalkeeper lan, who has her own cable talk show. Hiva! (which surprisingly isn't a reference to where her husband's team ought to be in the league), and Sam Holdsworth, married to Love Rat Deano -Dean Holdsworth, that is - as she launched what will surely be at first sight. He opened page (please God) a short and uneventful pop career.

In contrast, the grit in the programme's oyster, so to speak, was Ann Lee, wife of Jason, the striker who took so much stick from Newman and Baddiel about his pineapple hairdo (and habit of missing open goals) that his confidence was shot to pieces and he slid down the professional ladder into Nottingham Forest reserves. After Suzi Walker had shown us round her cheap shot this, one of several

reality restorative: "I wouldn't wish it on anybody," she said of her life. She met Jason when he was playing for her father's team when she was 15, and has been a grass widow for too long to be starstruck. "I hate football," she said. "I don't know if it's because it was rammed down my throat since an early age. I think netball should be on lly, not football."

three and there was his future wife. Blind date fixed, she read the sports magazines to see what she was letting herself in for, but there was nothing about Jan - an outrage later rectified when he was named Sexiest Footballer of the Year by the Nobel Prize Committee or United Nations Security Council or someone similar...

For Ian Walker, it was love

As we see her fluffing her introductory lines to Hiya! (a

view, coming across in his bilious green jacket (I once saw an identical one on the back of porn supremo David Sullivan at an awards dinner) like one of those ambitious but hopelessly self-deluded characters Mike Leigh is ruthless in dissecting - think Timothy Spall in Life is Sweet. Hahn had gleaned his script

from the tabloid showbiz pages, and his analyses of the celebrity lifestyle were magnificently unenlightening, "On planes they might even find themselves next to royalty." he slavered, on the subject of footballers who get rich quick. In one interview sequence, shot bizarrely in a restaurant as he stuffed his face with what appeared to be chicken satay (or it might just have been a very runny kehab), he gave us the benefits of his theories of celebrity and physical attractiveness.

"If you're going to be in the

Hahn, her agent, trundled into good, you want to feel good," he said as satay sauce dribbled down his chin (well, almost). "If you're earning big money - this is the whole glitz - it's a whole aurora around the industry. It's a case of they like to be seen in the right places and they always like to be seen with good-looking people. It's very unusual that you'd see a footballer wandering in a nightclub or wandering out in a restaurant with someone who's extremely -" there was an almost unrecordably short pause while he considered the blatancy of what he was

about to say - "ugly". While Sam Holdsworth spoke soulfully of the "devastation" she felt when Love Rat Deano was caught with his trousers round his ankles, it was left to Ann Lee to tell it like it is. "They meet a footballer, they think, 'Cor, money, limelight, I'll have some of that," And to be fair to the gold-diggers, she says.

English "O" levels while she waited to hear whether her hushand, unwanted by Forest, signed for Watford (she doesn't want to leave Nottingham) were the three struggling with an exscenes of Walker being shown round a mock Jacobean "mansion" that for all its chandeliers and panelling had as much character as a Happy Eater, and Holdsworth's ill-advised foray

Intercut with shots of Lee

studying for her maths and

At the end, Walker's cable career continued and Holdsworth's pop aspirations reinto crap pop music. As she was paying the producers and agents mained thankfully unfulfilled, herself (according to the programme, at least), at best her efforts were aural vanity publishing. There were some nice shots of the two agents on their carphones following up the demo tapes: "So you've got the the way till we drop dead." The tape. What d'you think of it?" Pause while the person on the other end presumably says "it's the biggest load of each I've ever heard." "Ah." said the agent try- of a diamond geezer is, she's it.

while Jason Lee signed for Watford, which meant that Ann

Holdsworth singing with the

backing track on her head-

phones, so she sounded like

Eddie Murphy mangling "Rox-

anne" at the beginning of 48

Hours. Yet another saw each of

planation of the offside law

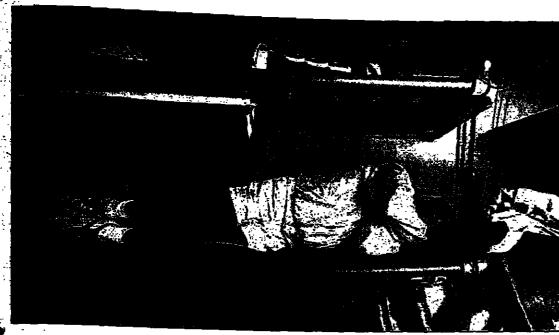
(would a metallurgist's wife be

expected to describe the prop-

erties of titanium?)

would keep the kids in Nottingham while he stays at his mum's, though she said that they will stay together - "I can see us going all last shot, as Lee turned out for his new side, was of Ann looking pensive and long-suffering. Whatever the distatf equivalent

## 17/PHOTO-SHOOT



# Awesome company joins battle as the stakes rise

Merit Cup finished the first leg of the Whitbread Round the World Race in second place, but the second leg is only a week old and the boat is already in trouble. Merit Cup's skipper, Grant Datton, explains why he now has to concentrate his strategy on what amounts to a salvage operation.

<sup>293</sup> 2505

At last we have what the Southern Ocean is meant to be. Some strong breeze to drive the boats along and the hope that we can make up for what has proved to be a pretty disastrous opening stretch out of Cape Town on the way to Fremantle.

The guys are all dressed in survival suits to keep them warm and it's quite a contrast with the warm and sunny conditions we have been experiencing, conditions we did not want and have not enjoyed experiencing.

It was on Wednesday that the

It was on Wednesday that the weather front we had been waiting for came through and from slow, drifting progress we were powered up by a 30-knot wind pushing us at 15 knots. It all happened in a period of about six hours and is allowing us to push south for another 500 miles, which is about as far south as we will go. We could be going quicker if we could alter the angle and sail a little less close to the wind, but we figure that will happen anyway.

We can only hope that the frustration is over, but what will not go away yet is the worry that this is going to be our bad leg. The way the race is organised is that one long regatta is split into a number of races

in Beds

ertainly!



ing Cape Town and that was a very

and it worked for them, while Paul

days and planned for four meals a day after feeling we had not been eating enough on the first leg. It has been easy enough to cut that back to three meals a day in the expectation that we will take 18 days.

So far there have been no prob-lem with the boat, mainly because of the light conditions. Inst one ripped and you have to expect to have a bad one some time. This one may be reacher as it collapsed against one of the mast spreaders in the floppy air. ours, and it is doubly unwelcome as But we aren't expecting any more the points system makes this a highlight stuff until the final approach to Fremantie. And we can still do scoring leg, so every place we lose some catching up. The way the pocounts more points against us, more sitions are calculated is by using the to make up on legs which score less. Gunnar Krantz in Swedish Match great circle route, which is quite put a four-mile dig out to sea leavhigh, so the boats in the north and

east always look better than the ones

the position could change again.

back on the first leg is now so far in front that nobody is likely to catch them. You have just got to be rea-

We have sorted out the food ra-

tions. We thought it would take 16

sonably philosophical about it.

smart sea. But you don't normally expect to see four miles turned into 400 so we are a bit disappointed they have got such a good break.

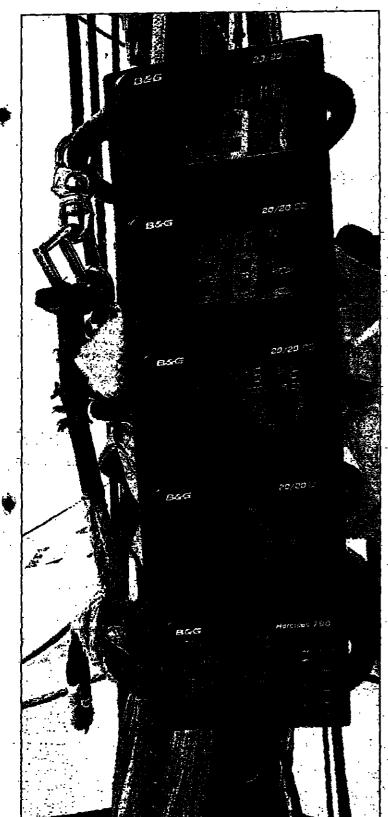
I have to say, also, that Kvaerner deserve to be where they are because they punched out south hard in the south.

We are still hoping to be fourth, though even that will be difficult against Smith and Cayard, and would be more of a salvage position than an achievement. But if any of the top three run into problems or damage,

Standbridge in Toshiba slipped It has now become a true Southaway when they were inside us. em Ocean leg. The boys are a pret-That's a bit hard to swallow. ty even-tempered lot. They just get It means we are back here fighton with the job, whatever it is. But the tougher it is, the better it is for ing out the minor placings and we like we are fighting with all the back of a top three position on every leg. Copies of these photographs runners, we are up against front row players like Lawrie Smith in Silk Cut and any others by the Independent's sports photographers David Ashdown, Peter Jay and Robert Hallam
- can be ordered by telephoning and Paul Cayard in EF Language. It's going to be very hard. The mood on board is not at all

black. We know it's part of this race 0171-293-2534.
that a boat that was nearly at the Latest positions, Digest, page 21









### PHOTOGRAPHS BY DAVID ASHDOWN

Life on Merit Cup (clockwise, from top left): The lure of glory may motivate the crew but the sleeping position leaves a lot to be desired; in full sail the boat looks like a dream; the reality looks more like a lot of hard work; is that mast on straight? (bottom centre); speed in all conditions is the goal so hi-tech aids measure the conversion of wind speed into knots; skipper Dalton is in his element (top centre)



### Steeplechasing's essence: Forster and his Flyer

There is a chill in the air and the jumpers are back at the centre of racing's focus. Where better to begin than at Cheltenham where the archetypal National Hunt trainer, Tim Forster, and the most breathtaking of steeplechasers, Dublin Flyer, attempt to win the first major race of the jumps season, the Murphy's Gold Cup, for a second time.

The horse who will carry top weight in the Murphy's Gold Cup this afternoon is more than just another steeplechaser - he is history on four legs. "Hanging in my ball," John Sumner, the owner of Dublin Flyer, says, "there is a framed list, written in the most beautiful script writing, which was presented to me by Tim Forster. It lists the first 100 winners that he trained for my family. And that only goes up to 1976."

It is an image which says it all about Captain T A Forster. Loyalty, longevity, heaps of winners - and on closer inspection, no doubt, the great majority were chasers. As Sumner says, "as far as he's concerned, there's only one thing worse than hurdle racing, and that's Flat racing".

It is fences or nothing for the Captain, so much so that it is impossible to imagine anyone else's initials on Dublin Flyer's saddlecloth. Physically, the 11year-old is magnificent in every detail, tall and athletic, and so robustly put together that you could picture him carrying a 17stone Hussar. When he tackles Cheltenham, the ultimate test of a chaser, it is one of the most glorious sights in sport, a fearless exhibition of foot-perfect jumpwere made for each other.

"The Captain knows him inside out," Brendan Powell, Dublin Flyer's jockey for the last four seasons, says. "He's quite excitable at home and if horses to Forster almost from he'd gone to a lot of places, he the moment he took out a limight have been over-raced as a young horse and would prob- both a Hennessy and a King ably never have been the horse George more than 20 ago with he is now. The Captain brought Royal Marshall II. As yet, the him along slowly with just a few Gold Cup itself has eluded runs in hurdles and then it was Forster, but he has saddled straight to fences. He never abuses horses, and he'll al- National, most recently in 1985, ways get the best out of one like

these days there are very few ster, to victory at 50-1. trainers who are ready to be as patient, or owners who are prepared to let them. Even Sumner admits that "over the years,



Photograph: Dan Abraham/Sporting Life

adding that, "with hindsight,

he's always been right". Summer has been sending cence in 1962, and the pair won three winners of the Grand when Last Suspect carried Hywel Davies, in the Arkle colours But it all takes time, and of Anne, Duchess of Westmin-

The trainer's pointed adup beforehand - "keep remounting" - is racing folklore. we've criticised him for not Apart from his devotion to prised. It's just his way and he'll running horses enough," before steeplechasers, pessimism is never change, ever."

the other thing that Forster is famous for, and it is not mere affectation (putting on a show for the cameras, after all, is hardly his style). "He really is like that," Henry Daly, his assistant for the last eight years,

### **BY GREG** WOOD

says. "Everything will get beat as far as he's concerned, everyvice to Davies as he legged him thing will go wrong, and it means when something goes right, he's pleased and sur-

Yet it was hardly the action of a pessimist when, with his 60th birthday fast approaching, Forster decided to move out of the Wantage yard which had been his base for three decades and start from scratch at Downton Hall estate, near Ludlow. where to begin with there were not even any gallops, just endless acres of green fields.

"I think he wanted a new spark in his life, and it came at just the right time," Summer says, while Daly recalls that "it was a challenge, he'd been doing everything the same way for a long time, and knew what each gallop was like. Then he had to really sit down and work everything out, it was all different." Almost inevitably. Forster

rose to the challenge, and Forster: always been right

any fresh list the Captain may Dublin Flyer's victory in the be preparing for his wall. 1995 Mackeson (as the Murphy's was then known) and the The latter success was a par-Queen Mother Champion ticularly fine achievement, as Chase won by Martha's Son just

Martha's Son had had just one a few months ago are already on outing - he fell - since sustaining what many had assumed was a career-ending injury 18 months beforehand. Forster paid rich tribute to his horse afterwards, tic quiver in what is normally the most rigid of upper lips. Everyone who loves jumping

horses has reason to be grateful to Tim Forster, for cherishing the belief that if you give a horse time, it will repay your patience twice over. Dublin Flyer has already won the first big chase of the winter campaign once. The second instalment could fall due this afternoon.

# **Dublin looks** a capital proposition

The touts claim that Sparky Gayle could soon be the best chaser in training, but he will need to be fit as well as talented to win at Cheltenham this afternoon. Greg Wood studies the card on the most important day of the season so far.

There is just one way to be sure of seeing a Gold Cup winner this afternoon, and that is to travel to Ayr to watch Mr Mulligan in the Sean Graham Chase, but rather more people will pack into Cheltenham for the Murphy's Gold Cup, and it is just possible that they will see a Gold Cup winner too. Sparky Gayle, who was unbeaten in six starts as a novice chaser last season, will start favourite for the first major handicap of the National Hunt campaign, and bookmakers reported yesterday that punters were eager to back him for the big race at next year's Festival in anticipation of an impressive victory today.

Bookmakers, of course, report such things all the time. while rarely offering any evidence that the hot money in question amounts to more than a fiver each-way. None the less, Sparky Gayle, who was campaigned with great intelligence by Colin Parker last season, is by some way the most interesting new recruit to the senior chasing ranks, and having won the Cathcart Chase over the Murphy's course and distance at the Festival back in March, he certainly deserves to start favourite this afternoon with just 10st 21b on his back. Whether he deserves to be a such a short price for his seasonal debut in what seems sure to be a race run at a fearful pace is an-

other matter entirely. The simple answer is no. since with Dublin Flyer in the field, he will have little chance flat, almost straight and hurdleto find his feet with a gentle pop free race at Newmarket, and over the first few fences, while but there was an uncharacteris- at the other end of the race, any lack of race fitness will be all too DERRING (nap 4.05). Nigel evident on the climb to the post. Twiston-Davies's runner has When the favourite offers little value, however, there is usual- but it is his fourth place in last ly a decent bet further down. year's Gold Card Final, off an and the interesting thing about identical handicap mark to to-

dozen of the nine entries running from out of the handicap, the list of credible alternatives is attractively short.

Challenger Du Luc is back within a few pounds of his winning mark of 12 months ago, but he is a rather quirky animal whose form appeared to be tailing off towards the end of last season. Dublin Flyer (next best 2.55), on the other hand, is reportedly as well as ever as he approaches his 12th birthday. He was born to race at Cheltenham, would arguably have beaten Challenger Du Luc last year but for slipping up with three to

ump, and is very fairly priced. Elsewhere on the card, there are potential Festival horses everywhere (it is only 123 days to Champion Hurdle day, after all), not least in the Grade Two Mackeson Novices' Hurdle. Circus Star, who finished secand in last year's Triumph Hurdle but still started this season

RICHARD EDMONDSON NAP: Polydamas (Cheltenham 2.20) NB: Royal Scimitar (Windsor 3.25)

as a novice, will take some heating, but he has done very little winning for a horse of such apparent talent, and Polydamas (2.20), eighth in the Supreme Novices' Hurdle in March, is fancied to beat him.

Celtic Abbey (3.30), the best hunter chaser of last season, has improved immeasurably for a move to Venetia Williams's yard, and should take full advantage of the 24lb he receives from Coome Hill, last year's Hennessy winner, in the handicap chase, but the most solid bet of the day awaits those who hang around for the final event, the stayers' handicap hurdle.

Turnpole, recent winner of the Cesarewitch at Newmarket, will find plenty of supporters despite carrying top weight. Three and a quarter miles around the ups and downs of Cheltenham. though, is rather different to a knows this course well, HAILE won eight of his last 13 races, the Murphy's from a punting day's, which gives him an outpoint of view is that with half a standing chance this afternoon.

GREG WOOD THE A-Z OF BETTING

l is for . . .

Index betting: With its echoes of the FTSE and Dow Jones, index betting sounds altogeth-er more serious and important of punters in the happy position day. A minor breakthrough

friends to a full-blown crack piece. habit, which is fair assessment of the potential highs and lows. Inquiry: When there has been mechanics of betting on ter off keeping it that way, but the basic principle is that the more right you are, the more you win; and the more wrong you are, the deeper the quicksand. Hit a good run and you will feel you can take on the world. Come down too sharply and very nasty men will be banging on your front door, since losses on spread bets, unlike those on fixed odds, are recoverable in law. When Brian Lara made his record Test in-

than flash-Harry spread betting, of knowing that every boundbut it is simply another name any he struck after passing 80 for the same thing. A col- added another £100 to their league once compared the winnings. Somewhere, though, switch from traditional fixed- there were probably a few othodds to playing the spreads as ers for whom every extra run akin to moving straight from removed another treasured sharing an occasional joint with heirloom from the mantle-

If you do not yet understand the such obvious interference during a race that even the stewspreads, you are probably bet- ards could not miss it, they will generally hold an inquiry. This is like a trial, with one important difference - it is not just the defendants (ie. the jockeys) who stand to be fined if found guilty, but anyone in Britain who has backed a horse concerned in the finish. Despite this, however, inquiries are almost always held behind closed doors, with punters denied any chance to observe the procedures and thought processes which may determine whether

occurred at Goodwood in July, when the BBC was allowed to film an inquiry, but without the sound to go with it, which did little to dispel the suspicion that the collective IQ in the stewards' room on such occasions is so low that it might be a better idea to interview the horses. Only when cameras and microphones are allowed past the doors will the country's backers be assured that the fate of their cash is safe in the hands case may be.

Ireland: Horse racing may have originated in Great Britain, but without doubt. Ireland is its spiritual home. closed order of monks somewhere in the wilder reaches of elsewhere, and in the coun-

it is National Hunt that gets Irish blood racing, and steeplechasing even takes its name from a cross-country race in Ireland in 1752, between a Mr Blake and a Mr O'Callaghan, from the church at Buttevant to the steeple of the village of St Leger. Every year, several thousand of them make the pilgrimage to Cheltenham and set about the serious business of showing the British how to enof the stewards. Or not, as the joy themselves. Sadly, we never quite seem to get the hang of it, so they just have to come hack and do it all again 12

ITV Seven: It may not have There could possibly be a seemed like it at the time, but from a couple of decades' distance, we can see that the era Connacht which does not take of the ITV Seven was truly the much interest in the turf, but golden age of racing broadfew would care to bet on it, and casting. Unlike the Channel 4 Racing of today, which genertryside in particular, racing is ally offers twice as many yaman essential thread in the fab-mering heads as it does races, punters will never forget.

ric of everyday life. Above all, the action-heavy Saturdays of yesteryear could survive without either picture puzzles or grovelling interviews with C-list celebs, and best of all, for anyone born in the 1960s, the ITV Seven was thoroughly educational. "Mum, why can't I understand a single word Lord Oaksey is saying?", the children of Britain would ask. "Because he's a toff, dear", would come the reply, and suddenly the concept of class division was that little bit clearer. And who would ever have known of the existence of places like Ludlow and Catterick had they not witnessed the distressing sight of Brough Scott, perched nervously in what appeared to be a jerry-built tree house above the paddock, shiveting so hard that you feared for his teeth? Those days are long gone (just like Harringay stadium, which provided dogs as a filler when the racing was frozen off), but a generation of

### McCoy can make the difference

The former National Hunt jockey Steve Smith Eccles (right) makes a runner-by runner analysis of today's Murphy's Gold Cup.



Dublin Flyer: It is 22 years Cherrynut: Always labouring since an 11-year-old won this but Captain Forster's grand campaigner holds a solid chance. Unlucky to slip when going well in last year's race. but I wander it the old engine is still firing on all cylinders. He is 10th better at Cheltenham than anywhere else.

Challenger Du Luc: Just 7lb higher than this time last year. Given the achievements of Strong Promise, who was second to him in the 1996 Murphy's, last year's winner looks leniently treated.

Sparky Gayle: A Festival winner in March, Sparky Gayle runs off just 10st 2lb and has every chance of emulating his Catheart win. His filness may be found out by what is certain to be a blistering pace on a testing track.

Bertone: Better than ever, defying a 6th penalty by landing an Ascot handicap last time. With only 10st 1lb he Conclusion: If Sparky can also play a leading role.

Senor El Betrutti: This spring-heeled grey has had volved in the minor placings. on a rusty bicycle.

before being pulled up at Wincanton last Saturday. Prone to mistakes and is likely to blunder again.

Destin D'Eestruval: Blundered five out in Callisoe Bay's race at Uttoxeter last Saturday. He was no match for Sparky Gayle in the Cathcarn and has done nothing to suggest he can turn the tables.

Terao: A distant fourth behind Gales Cavalier and Mr Mulligan at Wincanton last time. If he was trained by anyone other than Martin Pipe, you could expect him to be open to improvement. But Martin always has his runners spot on first time.

Potter's Bay: Won at Cheltenham on his reappearance and is the choice of the Duke's stable jockey. Sure to win more races but is 16lb out of the handicap here.

Gayle is fit he will take all the beating, but his fitness will be tested by Dublin Flyer, If there are chinks in his artwo outings already this term, mour I expect Challenger Du finishing a one-paced second Luc to come late on the to Simply Dashing at Wether-scene and expose them. His by last time. He could be in-

### Fiftysevenchannels shows who is the cross-country boss

Country Chase when Fiftysevfrom the Czechs at Cheltenham yesterday.

gelding with a well-timed run to Springsteen fan and named afest finish yet for the £25,000 confrom the Czcch Republic.

year's Kim Muir Chase on Stop enchannels snatched victory The Waller during a 10-month channels is trained by Enda Ken Whelan produced the Bolger, an enthusiastic Bruce course staff.

It was Whelan's first winner hedges, ditches, rails, fences and in the Sporting Index Cross at Cheltenham since landing last hurdles. But a chaotic contest almost ensued when the field was forced to plough through a stint in England. Fiftyseven- set of wooden stakes that had not been removed by race-

"The stakes were there to earn a neck triumph in the clos- ter one of the musician's songs. show us the way round on the The Cross Country Chase is first circuit," Whelan said. "But test from Peruan and Market a novelty event over a three when we came round again Place, two of three challengers miles seven furlongs course of they should have been moved they were still there when they

caused great confusion and they could have been dangerous. Somebody could have got stabbed with them. The clerk of the course, Ed-

ward Gillespie, admitted the error and confirmed that the field had taken the right course. "The five thin stakes were placed there to guide the field towards the fourth fence, but 30 obstacles made up of banks, out of the way. It could have came through the next time."

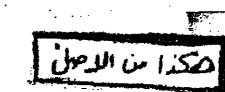
### Imperial Call is on the injury list any more than a week on the

Sick Call misses Navan

again and misses his outing in sidelines." Imperial Call was dogged by the Troytown Handicap Chase at Navan tomorrow. The winner of the 1996 Cheltenham Gold Cup has suffered a slight

muscle pull in his quarters. "He was a bit stiff after being exercised on the Flat yesterday," Anne Sutherland, the wife of his trainer. Fergie, said vesterday. "It's only a minor Imperial Call's price for winning problem and he should not be back his Gold Cup crown.

injury last season and was pulled up in the last Gold Cup. He made a splendid comeback this season when finishing second to Dorans Pride, the favourite for the Gold Cup, at Clonnel. The performance prompted bookmakers to cut



### 19/RACING

#### CHELTENHAM

GOING: Good

HYPERION 1.10 Chris's Lad 2.55 Sparky Gayle 1.45 Tullymurry Toff 3.30 FLYER'S NAP (nap) 2.20 Mr Markham 4.05 Pleasureland (nb)

GOING: Good.

Luft-hand, galioping course with stiff fences. Uphili run-in of 240yd.

Luft-hand, galioping course with stiff fences. Uphili run-in of 240yd.

Course is an north of lown off A436. Bus link from Chettenham station (served by Bristol, Birmingham and London, Packfington) 2m. ADMISSION: Cub £20; Tatessels £6; Courses Enclosive 27. CAR PARK: Free parking available.

LEADING TRAINERS: M Pips — 32 winners from 229 runners gives a success ratio of 440%, D Michiolacon 27-162 (16.7%), N Twiston-Davies 22-200 (11%), J Gifford 17-105 (18.2%).

(#82%):

① LEADING JOCKEYS: J Coborne 29 winners from 156 rides (#86%), N Williamson 28-115 (243%), A P NeCoy 23-94 (245%), A Maguire 22-143 (154%). ● FAVOURITES: 190 wins from 485 races (392%). BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Rorch Vert (visored, 110).

1:10 MURPHY'S NOVICE HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS C)

= 5 declared = 5 declared = 5 declared = 1890: Mister Blake 6 10 0 R Johnson 9-1 (R Lee) 7 ran FORM GUIDE

FORM GUIDE

What you see is what you get with THIRTY BELOW. The eight-year-old may be getting on a bit to still be in novice company, but he is genuine and stays well. That was good enough in an admittadly wester race last time at Wetherby (3m 11), where he didn't get in front until after the last, and he ahout do existed by this even greater test of stamina. Thinch Vert was a decent stayer on the Fiat in his heyday and in his first race for his current stable he was about to be swallowed up by if Marble at Worcester in September when he fell at third last. He was placed on the Fiat soon after but has been off the course since the end of September, if he comes back fresh and well after his break - and a bit of the stableb numers do - he would be a big danger at the weights. Chris's Lad has done well in his lew opportunities over hundes and followed his all-out win in a three-mile maden at Worcester by chasing home a wastu sort in Arcite Trumph over today's course and distance. Although outclassed by the winner, Chris's Lad nevertheless gave a good account of himself and is entitled to go well in this easier grade off a pound lower mark. Stormy Seasion's best effort lest season was when butched off by previous winner Ardert Love after melding the running over this trip at Huntingdon in May. A reproduction of that form would put him being there in a race that only the cheser New We Know might be out of.

1.45 WADWORTH SX NOVICE CHASE (CLASS B) £10,000 added 2m 4f 110yds

42-P1 SHERCELS (10) (D) (Liplands Boodstock) C Brooks B 11 5 G Bradley
3/1F-1 STORM RUM (25) (Mrs Penny Michael) P Nichols 7 7) 5 TJ Marphy
143-1 TULLYMURRY TOFF (12) (D) (J Wison & J Riley) J M Jefferson 6 11 5 E Calleghen
400-23 MUSIC BLSTZ (16) (BF) (The Coults McGregor Clary Mis D Thomson 8 17 0.

N. Williamson

- 4 declared -BETTING: 1-2 Tullymany Toff, 7-2 Storm Run, 5-1 Shetcle, 25-1 Music Biltz 1998: Potter's Bay 7 11 5 A Maguire 2-7 fev (D Micholson) 3 ten

FORM GUIDE FORM GUIDE

TULLYMURRY TOFF was left with rothing to best efter his only setious tival came down with six to jump at Newcastle 12 days ago on his chasing debut. He'll be much more seriously lested by Shekels and Storm Run, both impressive winners of their only attempt over tences, but it isn't so much what he best rather than the potential he has. Once left clear Tullymurry Toffs jumping, probably through lack of concentration, was a bit slipshod, but it would be churteth to complain about what was a promising start. He was a smart slaying hurdler last season and has the potential to do a great deal better as a classer. Shakels, jumping well, dictated the pace he wanted at Kempton and sattled the issue by seeing a stride and absolutely flying the last. It couldn't have been a better start and he can make a race of it against this stronger opposition. Storm Run, who chipped a bone his knee when talling over hurdles at Taurton in February - his first run since being jarred up after winning at Newton Abbot the previous September - ran right away with a jarred up after winning at Newton Abbot the previous September - ran right away with a novices' handicap chase under top weight at Hereford last month. He might have more on his plate here, but it's a certainty he has more to offer.

Selection: TULLYMURRY TOFF

2	20	MACKESON NOVICE HURDLE (GRADE 2) C4 (CLASS A) \$14,900 added 2m 110yds	
		(CLASS A) £14,000 added 2m 110yds	
7	FIRE	PALAMON (USA) (14) (D) (Or) (Orderd Press) P Eccles 4 11 5	
2	1151	PUNKAH (USA) (14) (D) (NCCouri Fire Mests) () McCourt 4 ti 2	i
3		CIRCUS STAR (16) (CD) (The Regnesters) D Nicholson 4 1) 12	
•		CLEAR BLUE WATER (14) (D) (W P Roper) W Roper (m) 4 10 12	
5	115-	MR MARIOLAM (848) (D) (Feb: Rosestels Widow & Sort) J Gifford 5 to 12	
6		ORANGE ORDER (1) (0) (1 J Dozen) M Hourigen (n) 4 to 12	1
7	340-3	POLYDAMAS (16) (SF) (Martin Bores) K Soley 5 to 12	

FORM GUIDE

FORM GUIDE

Circus Star was placed in the three big inventie events last assessment had a nice pipeopener here 18 days ago. The four-year-did never came off the bit and looks more the
finished article than most of those, but he left unbestable – he didn't always find a great
deal in the closing stages lest season – and MR MARICHAM could well find any childs
in his amour. Like stablemate Mandys Mentino and Boardnorm Shurita, Me Martham
has made a real impact in NH Flat races, whining his first two nicely before finising well
in tith from off the peace in the big Chelismhan bumper. He two stablemates took to hurding straight away and he could easily do flavvise and run up a sequence. Punitain's
only deleast was a crediable lifth in Chaption's Free Handcap, since when he has come
back to end Song Of The Sword's whining run at Assot. Like Palemon, Punitain has been
a real moneyopimer this season, though neither has flown quite this high before. Polydemus kept the bast company last season and didn't see out the longer trip at Stratord
on he reappearance. He looks a better alternative than the two hish challengers.

Selection: MR MARICHAM

2.55 MURPHY'S GOLD CUP HANDICAP CHASE (GRADE 3) (CLASS A) 250,000 added 2m 4f 110yds C4 

— 9 declared —
Minimum regist: 10st. True handicap weight: Senor B Bearuti Set 9b., Cherynut Set 5b., Destin D'Estrusi Set 4b., Israe 9st (1b.) Assar 25 sering Set 4b. Senor 9st (1b.) Assar 25b. Destin D'Estrusi Set 4b. Senor 9st (1b.) Assar 25b. Destin D'Estrusi Set 4b. Senor 9st (1b.) Assar 25b. Destin D'Estrusi. Pother's Gayle., 11-1 Senor 28 Betruti. 20-1 others
1898: Challenger Du Luc 6 10 2 R Dunwoody 7-1 (M Pipe) 12 ran

FORM GUIDE These past 12 months have shown with a good performance Challenger Du Luc put up when holding off Strong Promise by a head in this race last year after Dublin Flyer had sipped up in the lead on the downhill run to the third leat. Dublin Flyer went on to win Huntingdon's Peterborough Crees and a valuable handcap on the New Course hare in Jenuary (Challenger Du Luc tailed off), whereas the only subsequent race Martin Pipele gelding won were a bloodless affeit at Wincardon. However, that only goes to show Challenger Du Luc does best in a strongly-run race and goes well fresh. There's a good chance of a repeat performance from him, though SPARKY GAYLE keeping its unbestian record over intext must be just as strong a possibility. Six straight wins lest season for Sparky Gayle cultimasted in an impressive success in the Carboart Chase here at the Festival, where Destin D'Estruval, who found the ground too fast, was staying on in fifth, a distance behind, if Sparky Gayle is to develop into a genuine Gold Cup prospect, and there is every reason to believe he will, he is surely well in here with just 20 more than the minimum. Bertone has come back in good form this season but there's rain about and the ground could go by him.

Selection: SPARKY GAYLE

3.30 FLOWERS ORIGINAL HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS C4 B) £15,000 added 3m 3f 110yds

1 11FO-COOME HALL (247) (C) (Mrs. & Denne) W Dernic 8 2 0 J. Ceberne
Derk bine, white cross belts, white cap, cark blue star

2 31/P8-BANJO (FIR) (271) (Denne G Merce) D Nebalson 7 11 2 A Magnire
Black, white hoops, black sleeves, white spots

3 PIPP2-FYSTS NAP (2873) (C) (EF) (F J bry) R Ahm 11 0 19 Derkigneter
Black & yellow channonds, rad & yellow hooped cap
4 P4Uni-CELTIC ABBEY (168) (C) (D) (G J Powel) Miss V Williams 9 10 4 R Johnson
Amber blue hoop & colleg blue 6 white hooped cap
5 116-3 SHCHGALLOCK (14) (F J Central J King 8 104 Merce)
Black, emerald green chewon, emerald green Cap
1 WHAT A HAND (195) F A Bonsel P Nichols 9 10 D T J Marphy
Dark green, white sleeves, dark green hoops
- 6 declared Minimum weight 10st True handiscep weight: What A Head & 11th.
BETTING: 2-1 inchestings, 11-4 Coome Kill, 7-2 Piper's Nap, 6-1 Senjo, 13-2 What A Hand, 8-1
Celtic Abbey

Cettic Abbey 1998: Banguica 6 to 0 A P McCoy 13-5 far (M Pipe) 4 ran FORM GUIDE Hennessy winner and Gold Cup hopeful Coome (fill makes his segerly-awaited return, but as much as he improved lest season he has to give a lot of weight sway and INCH-CAILLOCH could make the most of the 24th he receives. The versable inchcalloch is so consistent, over fences as well as on the Flat, and was an encouraging third to Bertonia over three makes at Ascot a formight ago in its first run in chase for ten months. These should be some improvement in him and this greater test of starmar will suit last year's Cesarewitch winner. Cettle Abbey has come on a bundle since finishing fourth, several lengths achitt of What A Hand, in the Forbunitar here in March, He won the other hunters championello, Straffords horse & Hound Cup, in devestating style and is weighted to go well in this handleap. Starmina got Fiyer's Nap home in the National Hunt Handleap Chase at the Festival and the was feter hunters to make the festival and the was feter hunters.

S), but first time out ten't the best time to catch him it seems. The one big fly in the orderest is Benjo, a remarkable novice as a five-year-old in 1994-5 and still young anough to make it back to the top. The stable is in such tremendous torm, Selection; NCHCALLOCH

4.05 BODDINGTONS GOLD HANDICAP HURDLE C4 

Manager Magner, 100; Uniter Institution of the Manager Manager Production of Spiceope Code on America, 149 Mar Young Mins (Refly St 10th, Code N Barbey 7st 10th. SETTING: 100-30 Tempole, 5-7, Young Kenny, 11-2 Gystert, 8-1 Halle Desting, Lough Yully, 10-1 Young Mins (Refly, 11-1) Pleasureland, 14-1 Father Say, 15-1 Spaceoga Gold, Spring Manathon, 20-1 St Ville, 33-1 Tally, 150-1 Onlan M Barbey 1996: Victor Branc 9 10 5 C Liewellyn 15-8 (N Gaselee) 4 ran

1996: Victor Braro 9 10.5 C Llevellyn 15.8 (N Gaselee) 4 ran PORM GUIDE

Casarewitch winner Turnpole makes a welcome return to hurding and the way he won the big Newmarkst matathon suggests that there will be improvement in this fightly-raced hurder. Mind you, there'll need to be as he has no sesy task with 12 stone on his back. LOUGH TULLY ended last season with wins in novice company at Sandown and Barngrar and at first glance would appear right up against it on a rating 18b higher than last term. That's some hike, but he shaped encouragingly against Tidal Force over two and a half miles at Chepstow on his reappearance off his new rating. There's not a lot wrong with that form and Lough Tuly has more than once histed that a real test of starms would bring out the best in him. Young Karany, one of the best novices in the north last season before going off the boil in his last two starts, returns on a decent mark and a lot more will be heard of him.

Selection: LOUGH TULLY

HYPERION 1.00 Denton Lad 1.35 Edetweis Du Moulin 2.10 Magnie Melody 2.45 Mr Mulligan 3.15 Any Port 3.50 Sally's Twins

GOING: Good to Soft (Good in places).

AYR

GONIG: Good to Soft (Good in places).

© Lath-traint galloping course.

© Course is E of town on A758. Ayr station (service from Glasgow) th ADMISSRON: Cub £2; Grandstand 57. CAR PRARK: Free.

© LEADING TRAINERS: G Richards 32-55 (205%), Mrs in Reveiley 28-156 (206%), J J O'Nelli 17-99 (172%), C Puriter 17-106 (5%).

© LEADING JOCKSYS: A Dobbin 32-155 (205%), P Niver-22-121 (22%), T Reed 37-181 (109%), R Supplie 6-36 (222%).

© FAVOURITES: 183 wins in 359 races (442%).

BLINKERED FIRST TURE: Denton Lad (100).

1.00 SEAN GRAHAM NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS E) £3,000 added 3YO 2m

BETTING: 4-6 lbm Maeirah, 9-2 Count Torry, 8-1 Eastern Project, 10-1 War-rlin, 14-1 Zambir, 25-1 Denton Led, Sam Francisco, 33-7 others

1.35 GLENGOYNE MALT WHISKY NOVICE CHASE (CLASS D) £5,100 added 2m 

8 EFTTING: 2-11 Edelucis du Moulin, 7-1 Advance East, 10-1 Master Banted. 9
16-1 Prince Of Saints, 20-1 Weich March

2.10 SEAN GRAHAM HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS D) £3,000 added 3m 110yds 

HYPERION

1.05 Into The Clan 1.40 Kafil 2.15 Future King 2.50 Plan-A 3.25 Hisar 4.00 Hal Hoo Yaroom

2.50 Plan-A 3.25 Fif68if 4.00 Figure 100 Year Coard
GORNG: Good (Good to Firm on chase course).

● Figure-of-eight course. Level, with sharp turns, and long straights.

● Course is morth of town on ASOB near junction 6 of MA. Stations at Windsor Central (service from London, Paddington) and Windsor Riverside (service from London, Wasterloo) Tru. River bus stops at course. ADMISSION: Caub Ex; Tationsale EtD, Silver Ring 24. CAR PARK: CALD E2; remainder £150 or £1.

● LEADING TRAINFES: K Bailey 12-61 (25%), N Henderson 7-33 (212%), C Brooks 6-24 (25%), A Turnell 6-25 (23%), F Holley 4-29 (18%), J F Trailey 4-29 (18%), L Harvey 4-30 (13.3%).

● FAVOURITES: 75 wins in 216 races (35.2%).

SUNKERED FIRST TIME: Certain Surprise (140).

1.05 BURNHAM NOVICE CHASE (CLASS E) \$4,500 added 3m

-5 declared -5 declared -BETTING: 5-5 Secret Sid, 11-8 lata The Clan, 14-1 Hopperdame, 16-1 Hora W Heer, 25-1 One Mare Man.

1.40 IVER NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS E)

HOW BEARRE (FIS) R SINDSON TO 2. P Michaeling ROS Report TO 2. P Michaeling ROS Report TO 2. P Michaeling REPAIR (FIS) R OS Report TO 2. P Michaeling REPAIR (FIS) R OS Report TO 2. R Greene RAFE (ISA) (FIS) R DICKN TO 2. A Thornton TO SAKONBURY (8) G L MOOR TO 2. A Thornton TO SAKONBURY (8) G L MOOR TO 2. R GUNER (FIS) J KOOP TO 2. R GUNER (FIS) J KOOP TO 2. R GUNER (FIS) J KOOP TO 3. R GUNER (FIS) W (FIS) J KOOP TO 3. R GUNER (FIS) J KOOP TO 3. R GUNER (FIS) W (FIS) J KOOP TO 3. R GUNER (FIS) W (FIS) J KOOP TO 3. R GUNER (FIS) W (FIS) W (FIS) J POWER (7) THE VISION (FIS) W (M TURE TO 7. J POWER (7) THE VISION (FIS)) W (M TURE TO 7. J POWER (7) THE VISION (FIS)) W (M TURE TO 7. J POWER (7) THE VISION (FIS)) W (M TURE TO 7. J POWER (7)

" I declared — 11 declared — SETTING: 2-1 Kasteriae, 5-2 Kalii, 7-1 Walt On By, 8-1 lie de Librate, Praide Minatrel, 10-1 Sestarbury, Tangé Riog, 20-1 others

2.15 WEATHERBYS LIMITED HANDICAP HURDLE (AMATEURS) (CLASS E)

EZ, 925 added ZM

ARREST FUTURE KING (15) (D) K Balley 10 12 7 \_\_Mr R Walday (6)

SER4-5 NO PATTERN (10) (BF) GL Moore 5 2.6 \_\_mr LA Urbano

ARREST SAM ACCRET (10) M Ppn 4 12 5 \_\_\_\_mr G Emolt 5)

SEGUL SAM ACCRET (10) M Ppn 4 12 5 \_\_\_\_mr J Tezard (9) B

SEGUL SAM ACCRET (10) M Ppn 4 12 5 \_\_\_\_mr G McPhall (7)

AREST SEEPTITE (27) Mes H Knight 7 11 6 \_\_mr G McPhall (7)

SEGS-5 GLOWINS PATH (217) (D) R Hodge 7 11 5 Mr H Lovae (5)

45036 STAPLETORD LADY (6) (D) J S Moore 9 11 0 \_mr M Bozza

PIS-00 SECRET GIFT (10) Mrs J Panson 4 10 11

£2,925 added 3YO 2m

WINDSOR

2.45 SEAN GRAHAM LIMITED HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS B) £14,000 added 3m

AF1-2 MR MEALIGAN (25) (D) (EF) N Charles 9 Ti '2

R Democratic States (C) J J O'Nell 9 105 - B McGrath (S) SIF15 - JUDICIOUS CAPTAIN (225) (C) Mrs J Storey 10 105 - Mrs C Storey

18-1 Ask Me Leler, 20-1 Boars

3.20 SEAN GRAHAM HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS E) £4,075 added 2m 4f

- 6 declared -BETTING: 11-8 Real Tonic, 11-4 Montrave, 7-2 Sold Boss, 7-1 Show Your

3.50 SEAN GRAHAM BOOKMAKERS HAND-ICAP HURDLE (CLASS E) £3,500 addied

277

1222 OUT ON A PROMISE (F133) (D) Liungo 5 12 0 J Supple
1235 MAGSLAD (519) (D) J J O'Neil 7 11 11 L Cooper (7)
2004 FASSAN (231) M Hammond 5 11 7 R Gardby
2004 FASSAN (231) M Hammond 5 11 7 R Gardby
2004 FEN TERRIER (10) (D) F Marting 5 11 4 A Dobbin
2005 BEST OF ALL (2) (D) J Berry 5 11 4 A Dobbin
178-81 TREENMIM (LEA) (10) (D) F Morteinh 8 10 12 J Jardbe (7)
304 SALLYS TWINS (P217) N Charco 4 10 10 R Duratoody
D450P- COMMON SOUND (208) (D) J Barday 6 10 4 C C McCommock (7)
-1723 VINTAGE TATTINGER (32) (D) (EP) J Golde 5 10 0 S Beylor (5)

COOF ON THE OFF CHANCE (8) R McGalar 5 TO D.

N Horrodis (7)

-11 declared 
Minknum weight: 10st, Twe tandkap weight: Virtage Estinger 9st 13th, Apollo's Despiter 9st 6th, On The Off Chance 9st 2th.

BETTING: 3-1 Dat On A Promise, 4-1 Best Of AA, 5-1 Vintage Teltinger,

6-1 Sality's Teltra, 8-1 Magstad, Fen Yerrice, 10-1 Passam, 12-1 Others.

9 15-352 A.DAR (S) (D) (SF) Was S Lamyrran 6 10 9 

- 11 declared -BETTHIG: 11-4 Sam Rockett, 5-1 Future King, 13-2 Steeptile, Slightly Special, 8-1 No Pattern, Stepleford Lady, Secret Gift, Ajder, 10-1 others

2.50 DEDWORTH HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS D) 25,500 added 2m 5f PUPP4 BO KNOWS BEST (178) (CD) G L Moore 8 TI 2... PUPP4 BD (NUMS BEST (178) (LD) G1 ARONS 8 TI 2

2(L-2) NORMARANGE (12) (D) D Grassi 7 TI 2

3 Feature
10231 DURILLE (2) J King 7 TI 1

RGUNST
RR2-U PLAN-A (21) R Anner 7 TI 9

P Holley

- 4 declared -BETTRIG: avects Naminange, 5-2 Dubelle, 3-1 Plan-A, 10-1 Be Knows

3.25 WEXHAM NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS E) £2,925 added 2m

FT Tany B

# 12 construer -BETTING: 7-2 Hises, 4-1 Lonicera, Royal Scheller, 9-2 Steinrer, 8-1 Euro Forster, 10-1 Buildinch, Negetive Egally, 14-1 others

4.00 CHEAPSIDE NOVICE HANDICAP HUR-DLE (CLASS E) £2,925 added 2m 4f

0-400 LIFE OF BREAK (11) J Whyse 6 10.7 \_\_\_\_\_\_ Mr P Flother (8)

#### HUNTINGDON

12.45 Scottish Bambi 1.20 Moon Blast 1.50 The Toiseach 2.25 Smith Too 3.00 Shining Light 3.35 Highly Reputable

GORNO: Good to Firm (Good in places on chase course).

Right-hand, level course. Purvin 200yds.

Course is at junction of A1 and A604. Huntingdon station (service from London, King's Cruse). In: ADMISSION: Members E12. Paddock 18; Course SA CAR PARKE Picna: area 21; rest free.

LEADING TRAINERS: K Bailey - 23 win from 65 numbers [A8%).

J GRod 19:65 (2014). G Hubberd 12:57 (2014). T Footier 11:49 (22:49).

LEADING JOCKEYS: S Mohiell 11:58 (3%). W Marston 8-53 (51%). A Phagareled 8-70 (11:4%). D Byrne 5-22 (22.7%).

FAVOURITES: 203 wins in 470 races (43.2%).

BLINKERED PRIST TIME None.

12.45 KIMBOLTON NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS E) 52,925 added 2m 110yds

CLASS E) £2,925 added 2m 110yds

ALBAHA (RSA) (RD) (BF) J Banks 4 10 2 ... J R Materiagh

O045 BARTHOLOMEN FARR (20) C Dwyrs 6 10 2 ... J R Farrant

BETTER OFFER (R0) Mrs A Perrett 5 10 2 ... J A Farrant

CARPS SLAND J Orland 5 10 2 ... J A Farrant

CARPS SLAND J Orland 5 10 2 ... J Callady

CARPS SLAND J Orland 5 10 2 ... J Callady

CARPS SLAND J Orland 5 10 2 ... J Callady

BETTER OFFER (R0) J Jenters 4 10 12 ... W Membra

CONTINUE (P137) Ms P Sy 5 10 12 ... J Callady

PINAL STAR (R1) C Dwyrs 4 10 2 ... W Membra

1 2870 V PET VILLES (R0) J Webber 9 10 2 ... J Mackey

1 2870 V PET VILLES (R0) J Webber 8 10 2 ... J Mackey

1 2870 V PET VILLES (R0) J Webber 8 10 2 ... J Mackey

1 2970 V PET VILLES (R0) J Webber 8 10 2 ... J Mackey

1 2970 V PET VILLES (R0) A H Harvey 5 10 7 ... S Medical

OND SWEET LITTLE BERIAR (T70) G Brasery 8 10 7 ... T Jurilis

13 declared ...

BETTING: 13-8 Scottish Rumb), 2-1 Better Differ, 13-2 Carre Inhand, 12-1 Final Stab, Sweet Little Brier, 14-1 Bertholomeur Feb. 16-1 others

1.20 SOUTHOE NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS E)

£2,925 added 3YO 2m 110yds 

- 9 disclared -BETTING: 3-1 Misty Coy, 7-2 Moon Blast, 5-1 Silver Secret, Tough Act, 6-1 Blon Cheese, 7-1 Harmony Hall, 16-1 Copper Shell, 26-1 others

7.00 Tartan Lass 7.30 Montecristo 8.00 Mr Bergerac 8.30 Lionize 9.00 Suivez La Trace 9.30

DRAWADVANTAGE: Minicle to high usually best.

● Flureaund surface. Light-hand, oval occurse.

● Course is north of town on AA48, Wolverhampton station fm.

ADMESSION: Club C15: Teltersalls 28 (OAF members of Diamond

Club 16; Restauent 12:500 in centrance 8: meet CAR PARIC: Free.

● LEADING TRAINCRS: R Hollmanhead 60-572 (10:5%), M Johnston 53-228 (22:5%), J Bonry 43-239 (14:4%), A Builey 34-239 (118%).

● LEADING JOCKEYS: © Duffield 25-171 (14:5%), F Lynch 24-229 (10:5%), J Custon 24-384 (5:3%), D Wright 23-343 (9:5%).

● FAYOURSTES: 382 Wins in 1212 races (32:3%).

■ FAYOURSTES: 382 Wins in 1212 races (32:3%).

■ BLRIKERED FIRST TIME: Foreing Bid (8:00), Big Bang (9:30), Super Gelf (viscored, 900).

7.00 POPLAR MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS D) 23,000 added 2YO 7f

O ACCYSTAN (11) P Haskers 9.0 P Goods (7) 9
8 AMAZONBAN (52) C Thomson 9.0 Dean McKerens 11
0 DANCING GREY (23) P Harris 9.0 C London (3) 10
2 PRESCONS GREST (45) Sr M Prescott 9.0 G Datisel 3
00 RYEFELD STAR (11) 3 Serv 9.0 T E Darcen (3) 2
505430 UP THE CLANETS (11) J J ONAI 9.0 P Prescy (5) 6
T Species 1

BETTING: 13-8 Freedom Queet, 9-2 Captonent, 11-2 Implicitly, 10-1 Up The Chreto, Sharatry Lady, 12-1 Tortan Lass, 74-1 others

7.30 ROWAN LIMITED STAKES (CLASS F) \$2,800 added 1m 4f

SETTING: 9-11 Montecristo, 4-1 Tycoon Tips, 13-2 Zermett, 7-1 Borse Ville, 10-1 Steep Steeler, 16-1 Groveleir Lad, 20-1 Tujer, 25-1 others

8.00 S J DIXON HANDICAP (CLASS D) £4,000 added 6f

WOLVERHAMPTON

GOING: SIBNORO. STALLS: 71 & 1m81 - outside; remainder - inside. DRAWADVANTAGE: Middle to high usuelly best.

### 1.50 TOSELAND NOVICE CHASE (CLASS D) £4,950 added 2m 4f 110yds

422- THE TORSEACH (176) (D) (RF) J Fansbase 6 10 12... REPES- VINTAGE CLARET (229) J Gifford 8 10 12 \_\_\_\_ L Aspell (3)

2.25 ALTRO FLOORS CLASSIC HANDICAP HDLE (CLASS D) £3,650 added 3m 2f

....l Cudoty B 17-123 SHAPP COMBLAND (T7) FEDERAL STORE STORE LEADER (NZ) (T) (D) R Sucker 8 106 G Hogen (3) - 4 deciated -BETTBNG: 5-6 Smith Too, 5-2 Olympian, 7-2 Sharp Command, 20-1 Too

3.00 MACER GIFFORD HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS C) £6,300 added 2m 4f 110yds 2U41-4 MISTER DRUM (154) (CD) M Wildrason 8 12 0 . W Marata 153P-8 SHIMMAG LIGHT (11) (CO) (BF) D Michalson B 11 8.

1-F53P CRACKLING FROST (19) (C) (D) Mrs D Hame 9 10 0.... – 4 declared –

### Adminum weight: 10st. You handleap weight: Cracking Frost Set Sib.
BETTING: 8-11 Shining Light, 11-4 Miser Down, 9-2 High Luerie, 7-1 Crack-ling Frost.

3.35 WILLINGHAM HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS E) £3,650 added 2m 110yds 203F-3 BIETSCHHORN BARD (24) (BP) D Gandbilo 7 10 5 /1-001 HIGHLY REPUTABLE (22) (D) G Bravery 7 10 1. 

- 5 declared -BETTING: 5-4 Coundon Boulevard, 5-2 Bletset 7-1 Highly Reputable, 25-7 The Stager

# 

8.30 BEECH HANDICAP (CLASS C) £7,325 added 1m 100yds 

-13 discismed -9ETTRIG: 4-1 Farmont, 8-7 Cheeft, Llonice, 7-1 Northern Angel, 8-1 Tou-jours Riviers, 10-1 Conteners Lady, 12-1 Setten, China Caste, 14 others 9.00 ASH SELLING STAKES (CLASS G) 52,500 added 2YO ST

#2,500 30080 1111 41

Omn stoffscratto (12) (D) R Guest 49 10 \_C Lowther (S) 8

203400 TALAR (22) (D) 7 Keddy 59 8 \_\_\_\_\_\_ 7 Siddes (7) 8

C0030 ZERBIATT (23) M Libre 79 8 \_\_\_\_\_ 6 Duffield 8

USBOS SHEEY STEALER (E) R Precook 89 4 \_\_\_\_ P Feesty (5) 2

SODOOD TEMPTHESS (15) (D) J. Hams 49 1 \_Dean McKeever 3 V

ESHROU GROVETAIR LAD (25) S Bowing 3 8 12 \_\_\_\_ C Teague (3) 1

DUSSOO HEPPIOS (53) S Dow 38 12 \_\_\_\_ P Doe (1) 7

ST502 TYCOON TIMA (5) W M Bridgarre 3 8 11 \_\_\_\_ J Brandel 4

SD468 BOMME VOLE (14) (C) B Poling 3 8 9 \_\_\_\_\_ T Sprates 9

-9 dockard-9.30 HAWTHORN HANDICAP (CLASS E)

28H6 PREMER DANCE (141) (CD) D Hayon Jones 10 10 0.

BETTING: 7-2 Saan Hunter, 6-1 Prenter Dance, Rotton, 7-1 Pate Vrancen, 8-1 Sellon Blake, 10-1 Hilliah, 12-1 others

### PUNTERS' GUIDE

CHELTENHAM 2.20: Josh Gifford is rarely reluc-

tant to praise his charges but he dues rate MR MARKHAM a "very exciting prospect ... who could be a star in the making". The trainer's hopes may well be justified with was a creditable fifth in the Cheltenham Festival's top quality NH Flat race won by Florida Pearl. This is the five-year-old's first public run over obstacles but he should hold the likely challenge from Poly-damas. Kim Bailey's gelding also has loads of potential and can be forgiven a poor display at Stratford a fortnight ago because he swallowed his tongue. It will be tied down today.

2.55: Dublin Fiyer, a bold-jumping front-runner who loves this track. can be expected to stay on sloutly up the hill despite his big weight. By the straight, his rider Brendan Powell will be hoping to have burned the speed out of his rivals. Challenger Du Luc has claims but needs to improve to overhaul Dublin Flyer. Bertone travels well in his races and was a fine Ascot winner last time. However, this eight-year-old has been prone to jumping errors in the past and will be tested by today's stiff fences. Potter's Bay is a progressive young chaser who has shown a liking for this track. But carrying 16lb more than his true handicap mark hands him a very tough task. SPARKY GAYLE is at short odds but but was unbeaten in six races over fences last term. This afternoon's opposition will be no pushover, but Brian Storey's mount can hardly be opposed off this low mark.

### HYPERION'S

this dual humper winner whose sole 3.30: Incheailloch has the ground defeat last season came when he to suit, but it could be that he's best on a right-handed track. Celtic Abbey, a smart hunter chaser, was still running and jumping well in the Grand National when unscating his rider at The Chair. A big horse, he is likely to be better for today's outing. FLYER'S NAP also makes his seasonal debut, but his trainer reports that this 11-year-old is fit enough to do himself justice. He showed his appreciation for this course when winning here at the Festival in March, If Banjo blazes off in front, as he used to, this will help David Bridgwater to produce

Flyer's Nap with a customary late

4.05: Turnpole was already a decem hurdler but can certainly be expected to do even better now that he returns to timber after showing improvement on the Flat. Las month he won the Cesarewitch (2m 2f) with a flourish at Newmarket. Young Kenny was a promising novice last season and any rain would improve this six-year-old's already good prospects here. The same remarks applies to the Irishtrained mare Young Mrs Kelly, who has done her winning in muddy conditions so far. If the ground remains on the fast side, however. PLEASURELAND should go nicely at decent odds. The form of his second to Trainglot at Ascot back in April makes encouraging readœ٤.

MURPHY'S GOLD CUP - 10-YEAR-TALE

	130/	-	<i>03</i>		~.	-				
Fate of the favourites:	5	4	7_	5	10	1_	3_	7	1-7	5
Winner's place in bettir		3	3	0	3	1	_3_	2	1 <u>jt</u>	_0
Starting-prices:		6-1	10-1	12-1	15-2	tr-2	13-2	5-1	4-1	7-1
Winning weights:	102	11.2	10.4	102	10:	10:10	118	11,71	11.8	102
Winner's age:	8	7	8	7	_8	7_	8	9	9_	_6_
Profit or loss to £1 stak	e; Fav	ourit	es -£1	00 Se	eand	Favo	urites.	-2400		
Percentage of winners	placed	ist,	2nd o	r 3rd	in les	t race	70%			
Shoriest-priced winner										

ongest-priced winner: Multum In Parvo (1990) 12-1 Top trainers: T Forster (2) - Pagwell Bay (1989), Dublin Ryer (1995) J Gifford (2) - Bradbury Ster (1993 & 1994)

Top Jackey: R Dunwoody (2) - Another Coral (1991), Challenger Du Luc (1995) jt = joint favourite

FIRST SHOW

Lack of runners has resulted in three of the main bookmakers pricing up only one of today's races, the Murphy's Gold Cup, for early-morning punters. The firms will display prices on other races later in the morning Ladbrokes, however, bet on the 4.05 at Cheltenham:

7-2 Tumpole, 5-1 Gysart, Young Keniny, 6-1 Haile Derring, Lough Tully, 10-1 Pleasureland. Young Mrs Kelly, 16-1 Father Sky, Spaceage Gold, Spring Marathon, 20-1 St Ville, 33-1 Tity, 150-1 Oatls N Barley

100000		:		
Spericy Gayle	7-4	15-8	74	15-
Chellenger Du Luc				3-1
Dublin Flyer	7-2	103	3-1	3
Bertone				
Potter's Buy			-	16-1
Death Distantal				20-
Senor El Betrutti	33-1	33-1	33-1	25
Tietge				
Chanynut	40-1	33-1	40-1	33
Each way, a fi				_
C-Cost H-Villa	mHL	Lado	ches. T	Total
C-COSI, H-Was	ואות	Lado	Oles T	10

Murphy's Gold Cup

#### Gayle sparks betting spree

odds for Sparky Gayle, the tracted plenty of interest. favourite for today's big race at Coral reported heavy back-Cheltenham, the £50,000-added ing after offering the seven-year-Murphy's Gold Cup.

trained Sparky Gayle, unbeat- 7-4.

RACING RESULTS

CHELTENHAM 1.15: 1. HBLWALK (Mr R Walder) 8-1:

2. Coust Melody 5-2; 3. Pyr Four 9-1, 5 ran. 6-4 fav Jamas Pigg (unseated rider), 16, 26. (R Curtis, Epsom). Rote: \$9.20; \$2.20, \$1.50. DF: C1030, CSF: C2299, 1.50: 1, NOBLE COLDURS (E Calegran) 1.50: 1. MOBLE COLDURS (E. Calegrari)
2-1; 2. Come On Penny 10-1; 3. The FlyIng Doctor 5-1.7 zan. 5-2 ian Honey Trader SRN 13, 1 (S Griffiths, Cemperthen), Tone:
\$450; \$250, \$250 DF: \$1570. CSF: \$284.
2.25: 1. CALL EQUINABLE (I J Murphy)
13-2; 2. Tisse Won't Walt 11-1; 3. Flying instructor 4-1.7 zan. 5-2 tav Indian Jockey,
1 % (P Nichola, Shepton Mallel), Totae \$750;
\$300, \$320, DF: \$54.20 CSF: \$54.64 After
a slesswish langury the pean steel

\$300, \$320, DF: \$5420, CSF: \$5448, After a sizewards Incurry, the result shood.

3.00: 1. YaHali (M. A. Füzgerald) 2-1 far; 2. Strong Chairman 4-1; 3. Kendal Cavaller 19-2 from: 18, IJ CK, Whoughton) Teles 2590; \$100, \$100, DF: \$480, CSF: \$282, 3.35; 1. FIFTYSEVENCHANNELS (K. Whelm) 7-2; 2. Peruan 20-1; 3. Markstylates 33-1; 13 man. 11-10 fav. fish Stong \$60), ris. 19/. (Enda Bolger, Inland). Teles \$430; \$2180, \$330, \$250, \$260, \$350, \$250, \$350, \$350, \$350, \$350, \$350, \$350, \$350, \$350, \$350, \$350, \$350, \$350, \$350, \$350, \$350, \$350, \$350, \$350, \$350, \$350, \$350, \$350, \$350, \$350, \$350, \$350, \$350, \$350, \$350, \$350, \$350, \$350, \$350, \$350, \$350, \$350, \$350, \$350, \$350, \$350, \$350, \$350, \$350, \$350, \$350, \$350, \$350, \$350, \$350, \$350, \$350, \$350, \$350, \$350, \$350, \$350, \$350, \$350, \$350, \$350, \$350, \$350, \$350, \$350, \$350, \$350, \$350, \$350, \$350, \$350, \$350, \$350, \$350, \$350, \$350, \$350, \$350, \$350, \$350, \$350, \$350, \$350, \$350, \$350, \$350, \$350, \$350, \$350, \$350, \$350, \$350, \$350, \$350, \$350, \$350, \$350, \$350, \$350, \$350, \$350, \$350, \$350, \$350, \$350, \$350, \$350, \$350, \$350, \$350, \$350, \$350, \$350, \$350, \$350, \$350, \$350, \$350, \$350, \$350, \$350, \$350, \$350, \$350, \$350, \$350, \$350, \$350, \$350, \$350, \$350, \$350, \$350, \$350, \$350, \$350, \$350, \$350, \$350, \$350, \$350, \$350, \$350, \$350, \$350, \$350, \$350, \$350, \$350, \$350, \$350, \$350, \$350, \$350, \$350, \$350, \$350, \$350, \$350, \$350, \$350, \$350, \$350, \$350, \$350, \$350, \$350, \$350, \$350, \$350, \$350, \$350, \$350, \$350, \$350, \$350, \$350, \$350, \$350, \$350, \$350, \$350, \$350, \$350, \$350, \$350, \$350, \$350, \$350, \$350, \$350, \$350, \$350, \$350, \$350, \$350, \$350, \$350, \$350, \$350, \$350, \$350, \$350, \$350, \$350, \$350, \$350, \$350, \$350, \$350, \$350, \$350, \$350, \$350, \$350, \$350, \$350, \$350, \$350, \$350, \$350, \$350, \$350, \$350, \$350, \$350, \$350, \$350, \$350, \$350, \$350, \$350, \$350, \$350, \$350, \$350, \$350, \$350, \$350, \$350, \$350, \$350, \$350, \$350, \$350, \$350, \$350, \$350, \$350, \$350, \$350, \$350, \$350, \$350, \$350, \$350, \$350, \$350, \$350, \$350, \$350, \$350, \$350, \$350, \$350, \$350, \$350, \$350,

2. Country Minstral 20-1; 3. Lawisham 8-1. 14 rtm. 3, 1%, (D Ncholson, Temple Gui-ting). Tota: \$2.90; F190. F540. \$2.10, DF: 279.0. CSF: E5133. Tricast: £311.55 Tric: 5371.30, NF: Noble Tom. Jackpot: £18,949.10 (part won, pool of £533.78 carried forward to Chellenham to-

08y). Placepot: £63600, Guadpot: £5900. Place 6: £646.85, Place 5: £26102. EXETER

1.30; 1. DEVON PEASANT (Ar L. Jeford) 6-1; 2. Sol Music 33-1; 3. Sursum Cords 9-4 fav. 15 ran. 9, 4 (L.G Cottre), Calcuty-ton). Tota: £740; £160, £450, £190, DF; £70880, CSF; £77065, Troy £79280, NP; Impending Danger, 2.00: 1. DAMAS (G Supple) 10-11 fav. 2. Partisian 10-1; 3. Alice's Mirror 6-1 7 ran. 4.3% (M Pipe, Wellington). Total 2160, 2130, 2130, DF: 2710, CSF: 2939, No but for the

winer.
2.3st 1. ABAVARD (J Frost) Evens far;
2. Rectory Garden 5-4; 3. Hill Trix; 7-1.3
tan. 16, dist. (R Frost, Bucklassleigh), Tota:
£180. DF: C110. CSP. £240. NR: Was Windy.
3.10t 1. SPIRAL FLYER (W McCarland)
7-2; 2. Karicleigh Boy 3-1 fax; 3. Brown
Wren 7-2. 9 ran. 10, 11. (M Usher, East
Garston). Tota: £400; £120. £170. £180. DF:
£700. CSP. £221. Tricast: £3203. Tric:
£750.

3451, LONILLEAVE (HENEST (D Mor-ris) 14-1; 2. Step On Eyre 5-1; 3. Dentes Cevalier 9-2 8 no. 5-4 few Headwind (4th) 1,2% (R Curis, Epsom). Tota: CSAO; E320. S130, S180, DF; S830, CSF; SS860 4.15: 1. \*IGGINS (P Hide) 7-1; 2. Sey-mourswift 16-1; 3. Crimson King 4-1.8 ran. 15-8 tay Pate The Person (8th). 1 "L. (J. Git-ford, Findon). Total: £730; £200; £400; £280. DF: £5520. CSF: £5598, Tricust: £46946. mot £45.20 Quadoot: £12.10

Bookmakers yesterday cut the en in six races over fences, at-

old at 9-4. By lunchtime they Only nine runners go to had cut Sparky Gayle to 2-1 and post for the but the Scottish- later shortened him up again to

SOUTHWELL

12.05: 1. CHALLIZ (D Sweeney) 12-1; 2. Zalotio 5-1 fax. 3. Trojan Hero; 4. Be Warned 7-1 16 ran. 1½, 2. (K Burke) Tota: C230; E470, E150, E250, E190, DF: E58.0

CSF: £8130. Tricast: £37968. Tric: £27250 (part wort, pool of £27252 carried forward to Cheftenham 405 today). 12.35: 1. RAMSEY HOPE (L. Charnock) 12.35: 1. RAUSEY HOPE (L. CREMOCK)
7-1; 2. Hermati's Usher 9-4 iar, 3. Faylik
4-1.16 tan. 1½, nk. (C. Fasturst) Tole: 1:050;
1250, 1130, 1200, UF: 11480, CSF: 12753,
Tro: 17300,
1.05: 1. SUN DANCING (P. Fessey) 5-1;

1.05: 1.5 IN DANCING (P Fasser) 5-1;
2. Attenta 7-4 fay; 2. The Break 9-1 13 ran,
11/4, oh. (J Berry), Tota: 2740: 2250, 2150,
2490, DF: 2900, CSF: 2726, Thio: 22250,
1.40: 1. THE HAPPY POX (I, Newton) 5-6 fay; 2. Ioe Age 16-1; 3. Davis Rock; 7-2.
15 ran, 6, 1-, (B McMahon), Tota: 215; 210,
2250, E150, DF: 2270, CSF: 2253; Tro:
24700, NE: Ma Vielle Pouque,
2.15: 1. PAS DE MEMORRES (D Biggs)
7-4 fay; 2. Smooth Princess 7-2; 3. Main 7-4 fav. 2. Smooth Princess 7-2, 3. Mair Street 7-2. 11 ran. 9, 1 (M Tompkins). Total

Street 7-2 11 ran. 9, 1 (M Tomplans) Total C130, C120, C180, C130, DF: 0480, CSF: C175 Treast: £2342 Tro: £2410, 245: 1. GABLESEA (A Cultrane) 14-1, 2. Legend of Aragon 6-1; 3. The Barnsley Belle 13-2; 4. Molly Music 9-1, 16 ran. 9-4 tax Deeply Vale: 114, 3 (B Barght) Total £13180; \$420, £240, £300, £160, Dual Forecast: £1520, CSF: £17281, Trocast: \$43956. Trick 2014.

Trio: 128420. 2.20: 1. PRIMARY COLOURS (F Lynch) 6-4 Ji fav. 2. Emperor's Gold 4-1; 3. Mary Lour 8-1, 12 ran, 6-4 Ji fav Blue Zola, 15, 5 (W Hagges) Tote: £250; £10, £260, £280 OF: £350, CSF: £1046, Trio: £2890, NF: Vel-

vet Story. Winner sold for 10,200 gumess to Mr. J. Pearce. 3,55: 1. WHITLEY GRANGE BOY (Miss A Dene) 6-1; 2. Spick And Span 9-2; 3.
Nosey Native 10-1; 4. Tol Tol 6-1, 17 ran.
2-1 tav Paradise Navy. 3/s. nt. (J. L. Byre).
Tota: \$2.40; \$2.70; \$2.00; \$2.80; \$2.00 DF:
\$4940. \$35: \$3785. Tricast: \$282.9. Tric.
\$4580 (part won, pool of \$259) carried forward to Challenders. 405 enders. ward to Chellerham 405 today). Placepot: £26,20 Quadpot: £114 Place 6: £5461. Place 5: £18,67.

THE INDEPENDENT RACING SERVICES 0891 261 LIVE COMMENTARIES RESULTS CHELTENHAM 971 981 972 982 WINDSOR 973 983 HUNTINGDON 974 984 WOLVERHAMPTON (E) 975 985

3.45: 1, DONTLEAVETHENEST (D Mor-

ALL COURSES RESULTS 0891 261 970

Calls code hillip per ministe. LLS, ple, Scripton SI (CDA 47)

### Rees the molehill who can move mountains

David Rees has worked his way so stealthily up the blind side of the England rankings that the touring Wallabies have spent all week asking "David who?"

Chris Hewett sheds some light on an elusive newcomer as he prepares for the biggest match of his life.

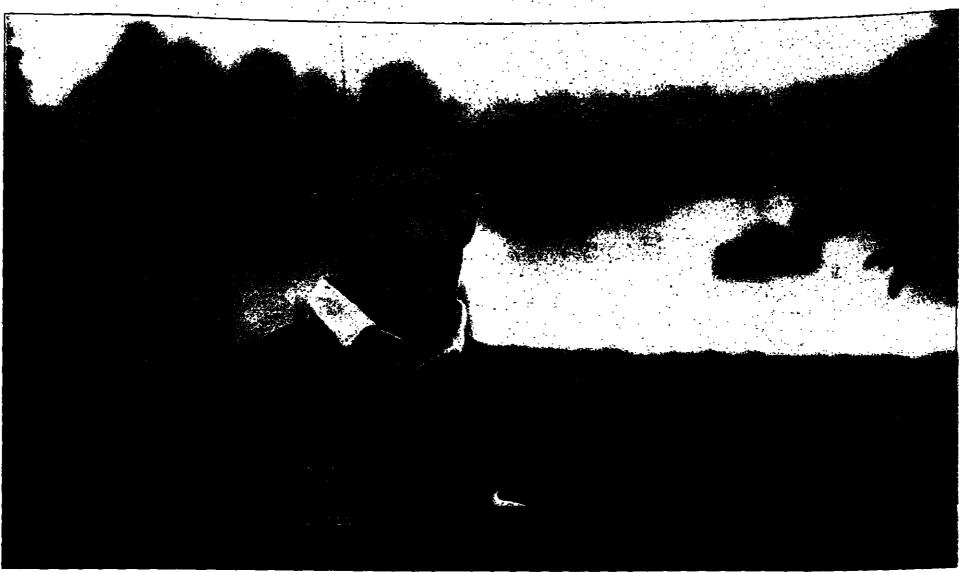
England's right wing has seen more comings and goings than Clapham Junction over the last decade, with new arrivals steaming in at the rate of more than one a season and, generally speaking, steaming straight back out again with the word "passenger" stamped indelibly between their shoulder blades.

You need a station announcer's memory just to recall the names: Harrison, Bentley. Evans, Harriman, Halliday. Heslop, Hopley, Hunter, Sleightholme. Oh yes, and a couple of Underwoods, too.

Successive coaches have tied themselves in knots attempting to fill the unfillable since John Carleton finally hit the buffers against Andrew Slack and his irresistible Grand Slam Wallabies in 1984, so it is by strange coincidence that David Rees, the latest in a long line of hopeful contenders, finds himself making his initial pitch against the same opponents at Twickenham this afternoon. Will the 23year-old student from Sale give the No 14 shirt some substance, or are the emperor's new

clothes still in vogue? Rugby fashion is not something that unduly exercises the new boy's mind. Unlike his England colleagues, he is not a full-time professional - "I've got two-thirds of a three-year course in graphic design under my belt and it's important to me they're making the trip. They've that I finish the course" - so be helped a lot. trains alone, either first thing On the subject of trendin the morning or at lunchtime, before attending evening squad

sessions at Sale. In that sense, at least, Rees is a throwback to the good old, bad old days of shamateurism. Can he possibly enjoy burning the candle at both ends in the knowledge that his compatriots are sleeping their way through



England's David Rees: 'There is more to wing play than pure muscle. You need the full range of skills to play the game today and agility too'

Photograph: David Ashdown

endless hours of quality rest? "I'm one of a dying breed, I know, but I've put a lot of work into my studies and I intend to graduate. My flatmates have been brilliant, actually. Very often, one of them will come to the gym and work out, just to keep me company. There are a few "stoodies" coming down from Manchester for the match and I'm pleased

bucking, Rees' physical dimensions fly directly in the face of modern selectorial orthodoxy. Compare his 5ft 9in, 12st 6lb frame with that of Joe Roff, the 6ft 2in, 15st 9lb Wallaby specimen he confronts today, and you begin to get the drift. If rugby is a game for big men who are getting bigger all

the time, Clive Woodward and the rest of the England top table are not so much ignoring current wisdom as poking fun at it.

"Every international coach has his preference and it's undeniable that most of them have gone for size as well as pace in recent years," Rees admits. "It started quite some time ago but Jonah Lomu's performances in the '95 World Cup give the Big is Best theory some real momentum. Suddenly, everyone wanted a fast-moving mountain on each wing and started scouring the earth for them.

'I can't pretend I offer that sort of physical presence but there is more to wing play than pure muscle. You need the full range of skills to play the game as it stands today and you need agility, too. The big-hit stuff has never worried me in the past.

I love tackling, absolutely love it after all. I've spent a lot of time in the centre and that's a position where you really do have to tackle your weight."

Born in London, where his father turned out in the back row for Saracens, Rees spent his schooldays up north. Not in Yorkshire, where a breathless early enthusiasm for rugby might easily have channelled him towards league, but in Newcastle, where he attended Gosforth High and the Royal Grammar School.

He was quick enough to land himself a Northumberland schools sprint title, was distinctly handy at soccer and better still at tennis, playing to county level in his mid-teens. At 16, though, he settled on the game that ran in the family bloodstream. "Basically,

dow," he says.

"I played my early representative rugby in midfield" the hoary old adjective "nuggety" might have been coined for Rees - "but I was fairly small for a centre and I began to get the message that I didn't quite fit the bill. Once I made the decision to move to the wing, things started to take off. Sale saw me at county level, had a quiet word and off I went to Heywood Road."

After two seasons of living on his wits under the exhaustingly offbeat Paul Turner, he quickly hardened up his mental approach under the current coach, John "Serious Attitude" Mitchell. The unforgiving New Zealander's appointment as Woodward's senior backroom henchman did Rees' cause no

the rest went out of the win- harm at all and although summer surgery to correct a double hernia threatened to impede his rapid progress, a flurry of tryscoring activity on his return last month was enough to earn him a shot at the Australians.

"Oddly enough, I think people first started noticing me in a match I really shouldn't have been playing in. We were up against Richmond in the Pilkington Cup last Christmas and there was an unusual amount of interest in the game, which was more to do with them than us. They'd spent a lot of money on some famous names -Ben Clarke, Brian Moore and so on - and there was a lot of nonsense flying around about the southern rich kids coming to give us hard-up northerners a good seeing to.

"I'd been struggling with

my hernia problem and had no real chance of playing, but I was called up to the bench at the last minute because we'd run out of

backs. I got on late in the game,

scored a decent try in front of the television cameras and suddenly, people started talking about me. It's a funny old world, isn't it?"

It will be more amusing still if Mr Roff and the rest of a dangerous-looking Wallaby back division allow Rees to give them the slip this afternoon. Does he rate these Wallabies, or are they every bit as mixed up as their gruesomely psychedelic shirts? "No comment," says Rees, emphasising once again that unconventional streak of his. In an age of rampant rugby hyperbole, England have unearthed a player who prefers to play a

#### good game rather than talk one. Springboks will try to match French for flamboyance

ball at every opportunity in an attempt to beat France at their own game in today's first Test

in Lyon. Even the South African tight five have been given instructions to attack as the World Cup holders take on the flamboyant Five Nations champions led by Gloucester's veteran wing.

Philippe Saint-André. "It'll be a quick-paced game and you'll see our forwards running with the ball whenever the opportunity presents itself," Gary Teichmann, the Springboks captain, said. "Our tight five showed against Italy last week that they can run with the

ball - and cause havoc." The Springboks, building a new-look team as they prepare for their World Cup defence in 1999, are expecting a tight match against a French team

South Africa plan to run the who won all three of their matches against Italy, Romania and Argentina last month.

The versatile Percy Montgomery has been called up to replace the injured South African full-back Justin Swart and the French may look to exploit Montgomery's suspect tackling.

Montgomery, who has scored five tries in six international appearances, expects to he put under early pressure. "The French are sure to try and test me. I'm expecting a load of up-and-unders - they'd be crazy not to," he said.

 Bath yesterday began the search for a new sponsor after Allied Domecq withdrew their backing. The four-year package was in excess of £1m, but the company has decided to concontrate its marketing activities on other areas from the start of

### **Three Lions** on a crest for Wales

Arguably the most exciting back division in British rugby union goes into action for the first time tomorrow.

PET TES

38 CELECT

PARTY CHARGES

· . • • •

138,462 Ca

Charles and 12

Neil Pierson reports on: the three Lions whom ... Wales expect to bring home the bacon against.

Call it being a hostage to fortune, but the Lions trio of Neil Jenkins, Scott Gibbs and Allan Bateman cannot even think of making a pig's ear of tomorrow's Test against the South Sea Islanders from Tonga.

The Wales coach, Kevin Bowring, reckons his back division has no equal on these islands for stirring the blood and he fully expects them to live up to their billing in the warmup to New Zealand at Wembley on 29 November.

Such is Welsh strength behind the scrum, that Bowring can afford to leave out Robert Howley, Arwel Thomas and Leigh Davies for Tonga's visit to Swansea. While they start among the replacements, Jenkins, Gibbs and Bateman will take centre stage.

Gwyn Jones, the Cardiff flanker and Wales captain, said: "We possess a midfield capable of competing with any opponents in the world. I don't think that Jenkins, Gibbs and Bateman have played together across the midfield before, so this game represents a rare opportunity for Welsh supporters.

"If you add two quality wings in Nigel Walker and Gareth Thomas, plus young full-back Gareth Wyatt, then I think you could see some interesting rugby.

After a low-key start to their British tour, Tonga warmed up for the Test with a 29-13 victory over Bath on Wednesday night. The three previous meetings have all gone Wales' way. but two of those successes produced narrow winning margins.

'We are in a no-win situation," Bowring said. "If we win by a big margin, people will point at the Tongan weaknesses, and if we only scrape through, then they will point the finger at us and say we failed again."

Wales' only fitness doubt concerns Gareth Thomas, but he is expected to recover from an ankle injury sustained during Wales A's 51-8 defeat against New Zealand on Tuesday.

1:25

= ----

----

...

.: ----

415

200 <u>2</u> 0.0

.....

5 Sept. 188

Paragraph of the

Tonga, coached by Jonah Lonu's manager and mentor. Phil Kingsley-Jones, field three players currently with British clubs - the Bristol wing Dave Trueti, plus the Ebbw Vale pair, Siu Taumololo and Kuli Faletau. The impressive second row Saia Latu makes his international debut after playing for Natal Under-21s and partners Faletau in the Tongan engine room.

engrie room.

WALES (v Tonga, Swansea, iomorrow, ko
2pm): Wyati (Pontypridd): Thomas (Birdgend). Bateman (Richmond). Gibbs
(Swansea). Welker (Cardif); Jankins (Pontypridd). John (Pontypridd). Loader
(Swansea). Williams (Richmond), Young
(Cardif), Moore (Moseley). Voyle (Lianell).
Appleyand (Swansea). Jones (Cardif).
Cardif, A Thomas (Swansea).
Howley (Cardif). Thomas (Swansea).
Howley (Cardif). Thomas (Cardif).

TONGA: Tonga: Tiest). Tarbit. Tarbit. TONGA: Tonge: Tuett, Tatatu, Tangince.
Faka osifokau; Taumaioko, Mone; Brigos
(capt), Melasi, Tatu. Latu, Falstau. Pohlwe.
Turpiotu, Moritika. Replacementis: Tai.
Afealo, Nguaumo. Hafoka, Matakakinogo.

leferee: S Borsani (Argentina).

### Irish rely on pride to counter All-Black tide

ireland have been understandably bullish as they prepared for today's Test against New Zealand, but Tim Gover still expects a drubbing in Dublin.

Ireland, like Scotland, have never beaten the Ali Blacks. They have been trying since 1905 and, although its an uncomfortable thought, you begin to wonder if they ever will. Certainly nobody expects the backlash to begin at Lansdowne Road today.

It would seem that Ireland's best chance of breaking the monopoly would be for a) New Zealand to forsake rugby as its national obsession and take up Morris dancing, or b) for the Irish to merge with the Scots. Even then the prognosis would

19-year-old goalkeeper, faces a

double threat this afternoon

which he might not have ex-

pected as the Hampshire side

entertain Blueharts, seeking

to maintain their unbeaten

record and second place in the

First Division of the National

League. Sitting on the bench

will be Havant's new signing,

the Canadian international

goalkeeper Tobin Seagal while

It is customary for Ireland to make life as uncomfortable as possible in Dublin for visitors, but it is also customary for the visitors to ride the storm before enjoying the freedom of Lansdowne Road. "Our approach will be to

a major performance overall," said their coach, Brian Ashton. the underdogs. But we have some very good players on the way up and we are looking to the future." Pat Whelan, the manager,

said: "There is no such thing as a bad All Black." Very true. Unfortunately there is such a thing as an average Irish player and Ireland are by no means at full strength for this, the severest of hope for is an exercise in damage limitation.

have every player perform to the best of his ability and to turn in "Obviously we are very much

examinations. The best they can

Andrew Mehrtens, the All Black's stand-off who has scored 274 points from 18 Tests at an average of more the 15 a game, delivers encouragement to the hosts with one hand while producing a stiletto in the other. "I don't subscribe to the view

there is a significant gap between the southern hemisphere and the north," Mehrtens said. "There are a lot of good players over here and every game is a one off. Ireland will not take one backward step." Mehrtens recalled Ireland's

almost kamikaze-like approach to their World Cup match in Johannesburg two years ago. They unsettled us and played with pride and passion." He neelected to mention the final score which was 43-19.

To most observers, the Ali Blacks' 13-try curtain raiser to the tour at Llanelli, which was played in driving rain, was damn

note at Stradey Park was struck by Mehrtens. Eight of the 13 tries were unconverted and his generally impeccable kicking game seemed to be out of sync.

There was, of course, a reason. It was the first time he had used a Reebok ball. "It was light and it tended to float in the wind," he said. Today Mehrtens will be reunited with his favourite Gilbert. To be sure, the 21-year-old

full-back Christian Culien can expect the Gilbert to arrive with a coating of spow, accompanied by half the Irish team, but even here there maybe no advantage for Ireland.

Cullen, who scored four tries against Llanelli (never in the history of competition has so many dragons been slain by a solitary Christian) demonstrated that he is not just quick but phenomenally strong. Kick-

near flawless. The only flat ing hard-earned possession to Cullen is likely to backfire.

In any case, anything Eric Elwood can do, Mehrtens is likely to do better, especially as Ireland are ficiding a debutant at full-back in Kevin Nowlan, He is one of five new caps. As Ashton says, Ireland are looking to the future but it looks black.

the future but it looks black.
IRELAND (v New Zestand, Lensdowns Road, 3px): K Nowlan (St Mary's); D Hickis (St Mary's); R Henderson (Wasps), M MicCall (London Irish), J MicWeeney (St Mary's); E Elwood (Galwegians), C MicGuirinass (St Mary's); N Popplewell (Newcaste), K Wood (Harisquin, Capt); P Wallace (Seracers), P Johns (Seracers), M O'Kelly (L Irish), E Helvey (Sharmon), K Daveon (L Irish), E Miller (Leipster), Replacements: K Maggs (Bratol), D Hamphreys (L Irish), B O'Mears (Cork Constitution), R Configer (Greystones), R Nesdale (Newcaste), D Erekine (Sele).

CANE (NewCasse), II Enterna (Selle).

NEW ZEALAND: C Cultern (Meriawrau); J Wilson (Otago), F Burace (North Harbour); A Memeria (Melingiori), G Osborne (North Harbour); A Melinneris (Canterbury), J Marshall (Canterbury, cop); C Dowel (Auckland), N Hewitz (Southfand), G Brown (Auckland), I James (North Harbour), B Brooke (Auckland), T Rabell (Otago), A Browles (Auckland), Z Brooke (Auckland), Rabell (Otago), C Riechelmann (Auckland), M Chies (Otago), C Riechelmann (Auckland), M Allen (Marshallu), A Other (Otago).

### BASKETBALL

#### England coach to quit unless national team wins funding

The England coach, Laszlo Nemeth, has given the English Basketball Association until the end of this season to obtain funding for the men's national team, or he will resign.

The 46-year-old Hungarian, respected throughout Europe and revered by his players, has been persuaded to see England though this season's European Championship semi-final group games, beginning in Denmark on Wednesday week. But the Association will have to find a new coach unless they succeed with an application to the Lottery Sports Fund.

Nemeth, who is nursing a broken arm suffered in a Leeds local league game, said: "It has been the same story for the last four years. England has a tremendous future in European basketball hut we need

fundamental changes to the current system if we are to stand any chance of success."

Stephen Catton, the Association's chief executive, said: "We want Laszlo to remain with us but sometimes I wonder how he has stayed with it this long. We know we have the talent in the team, and even more talented youngsters are ready to replace the seniors in the future. But without the correct programme of funding and preparation, our job is made extremely difficult."

The Bosman ruling, which has scattered England players all over Europe, has made training and preparation harder and more expensive, as has the overloaded domestic programme of Budweiser League and League Trophy matches. ~ Richard Taylor

QUOTES OF THE WEEK

I never expected a ban. off. Phil Lowe, Great Britain Michael Schumacher, whose 1997 results were annulled as punishment for his shunt with Jacques Villeneuve in the last grand prix of the Season.

I now have a belt for the Father and another for the Son. I need one more for the Holy Ghost Evander Holyfield, holder of two world heavyweight titles after beating Michael Moorer.

 There are no experiments. Clive Woodward, England RU coach, on his selection, including five new caps, for the game against Australia today. We will get better. Christian Cullen, All Blacks fullback, after his side's 81-3

victory over Llanelli. I walked into the dressingroom afterwards and just laughed. Gareth Jenkins, Llanelli coach.

 He could come out with an axe and he wouldn't get sent

RL manager, after Australia's Gorden Talis escaped dismissal for three high tackles in the second Test. You look at him and reck-

on he covers every blade of grass - but that's because his first touch is crap. Dave Jones, Southampton manager, on Carlton Palmer's first goal since leaving Leeds. • I will spend next week

coaching my players on how to get their hands out of the way of a ball belted at them from six yards and travelling at 120mph. Gary Megson, Stockport manager on the penalty given against his side in their 1-0 defeat at Reading. ♦ We let you down again. We are overwhelmed by remorse and self-scolding ... we want to say a sincere sorry to everyone. The Chinese national football team's written apology for falling to qualify for the World Cup finals.

the Blueharts attack will be led by Paul Krishman. Krishman, the former England international, was given a yellow card on I November

which, as he left the field, was converted to a red card, which carries an immediate and mandatory suspension of a minimum of 16 days. There is

no right of appeal. It emerged yesterday that

Havant's teenage goalkeeper faces threat from both sides Chris Lewis, frequently de- has been dogged by illness Phil Austen-Jones, Havant's the umpire, Bob Matson, had

> too harsh and asked to rescind the red card. This is contrary to the English Hockey Association's regulations for the enforcement of discipline though it appears it

was agreed to by the Association. In a double-header weekend of League today and fourthround EHA Cup tomorrow, the Premier League leaders, Cannock, visit third-placed East Grinstead while second-placed Southgate visit the bottom club Guildford who have signed the

considered his ultimate decision

Canadian Tim Lown. Hounslow, with home fixtures against Doncaster this afternoon and Surbiton in the Cup tomorrow, welcome back their captain and Owen Jones

after injury.

- Bill Colwill

CRICKET

#### Leicestershire re-sign a 'fitter, stronger' Lewis

scribed as the best allrounder in England, arrived back at Leicestershire yesterday after six years away "fitter, stronger and more determined than ever".

The 29-year-old Lewis, who was 19 when he made his debut for the county, left Surrey for a five-year contract at Grace Road.

"It is nice to be back and I feel very comfortable about the move," said Lewis, who first packed his bags to take up with Nottinghamshire in 1991. "I think my best years are ahead of me. I'm fitter and stronger and more determined than ever and Iplace back as well."

Lewis' traumatic career

and injuries. He has been given many chances by England without being able to secure the regular place his talent should have brought him. Middlesex will have a new opening batsman next season, having signed the 26-

year-old Australian Justin Langer as their overseas player. The left-handed Langer, who has played for Australia eight times, has 17 centuries to his name, five of which were double centuries. The fast bowler Waqar

Younis has been dropped by Pakistan for the first Test against West Indies starting in Peshawar on Monday. would love to get my England . Paceman Aqib Javed and wicketkeeper Rashid Latif were also not included.

حكدًا من الأحلّ

### 21/SPORT

RUGBY LEAGUE

ee Lions t crest

Wales

معصرة فالله فالو

gament con

Per Cons

serper to be

the Carte Agen

E back though Services for specifical services for the services for the

### Clyde's comeback is bad omen for Britain

Great Britain's rugby league players must break new ground tomorrow if they are to succeed where so many of their predecessors have failed. Dave Hadfield assesses their chances of taking a series off Australia for the first time in 27 years.

Great Britain's coaches and players have been hammering away at one theme this week: same again will not be good enough. It has been a sobering thought since that memorable second Test victory at Old Trafford last Saturday that, even if Andy Parrell and his men play just as well tomorrow, they will almost certainly lose.

To win they need to meet the target that Andy Goodway set them before the series, and improve as much between the second and third Tests as they did between the first and second. It is, as the Australians would say, a big ask. It is that way because those Australians will be unrecognisably better this week.

For confirmation of that, Goodway can consult his own memories of playing against them for Great Britain. He then needs look no further than his assistant for this series, Shaun McRae, who used to do the same job for his native Australia.

"It's easier to prepare when you've been beaten - I've always thought that as a coach," McRae says. "That has certainly applied to Australia, I was never involved with an Australian side that was beaten

British task at Elland Road. They have to counteract what has become almost a reflex response from Australian teams of the past 20 years. They are never more dangerous than after one of their rare defeats.

Even though they have lost Brett Mullins from the side originally selected, they will be helped tomorrow by the return of one of their finest players of recent years. Bradley Clyde plays his first match of the series after recovering from a calf injury and the calm and class that he brings to the second row should dovetail perfectly with the fire and fury of Gorden Tallis. Clyde's return is bad news for Britain.

For the reputation of the Australian coach, John Lang. this match is truly a case of make or break. The Australian Super League method of choosing their coach by league position means that he is already going to be replaced next season by Brisbane's Wayne Bennett; he will hardly want to bow out as the man who lost a series to the Poms.

Lang has tried to clear his mind of all excess baggage this week and treat this game in isolation. But he watched Anglo-Australian clashes from his boyhood and is too immersed in their tradition to lose sight of the potential historic significance of this one.

The knives are already sharpened back home. John Lang? Nice bloke, good coach -but not a dominating enough personality to take Australia overseas, they are saying.

Conversely, while none of his players is being publicly critical over here, grumbles are

That is the measure of the echoing back from Australia that some, brought up on the social whirl of a Bob Fultoncoached tour, have found this trip regimented and boring.

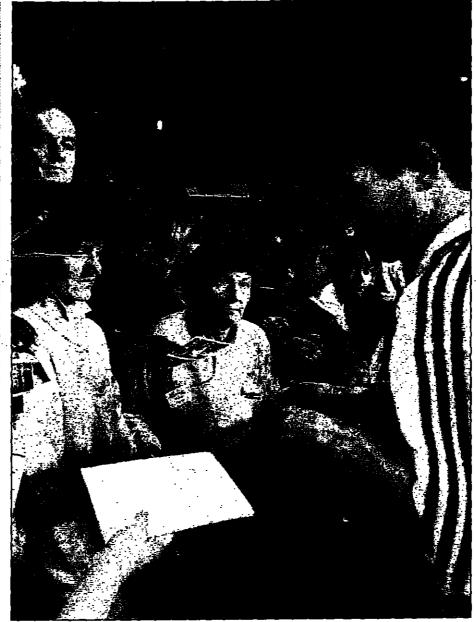
Goodway, meanwhile, can hardly avoid being hailed as a genius if Britain win. He will be honest enough to remember that this is not a full Australian side, but few will want to devalue the achievement.

It will have been forged in failure by a group of players with memories going back to their humiliations in New Zealand last year, sick of losing and now with a new confidence in themselves. But, for all their excellence

at Old Trafford, they have much to do - individually and collectively - if they are to win a series for the first time since 1970 and the first time in Britain since 1959.

For a start, they have to answer these questions in the affirmative. Can Paul Atcheson play with the same assurance at full-back? Can they possibly keep Laurie Daley as quiet again? And can they again walk that fine line between aggression and indiscipline?

If they can answer these and all the other questions at around 3.30 tomorrow, then they will have done astonishingly well. After 27 years, though, the nagging suspicion is that it still might not be quite enough.



Tim Henman with the fans after his victory in Telford yesterday Photograph: Allsport

#### SQUASH

### England in world team final

England beat Australia 3-0 yesterday to reach the final of 50-50 chance." the World Open team championship in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

Chris Walker, ranked No 10 in the world, gave the top seeds, who won the title in 1995, a winning start with a 10-8, 2-9, 9-1, 9-5 victory over Craig Roland.

Simon Parke then beat the newly crowned World Open sin-9-3, 9-3, 9-6 in 40 minutes to put England into the final Del Harris completed a clean sweep, beating Brett Martin 9-2. 9-2 in a match reduced to the best-of-three games.

"It was a great win," the England coach, David Pearson,

The European Cup, a

matchplay between 10

men and the leading

European Tour, may

but, as Cotherine Riley

observes from Praia

contest is close.

D'el Rey, Portugal, the

As the first foursome arrived at

the start yesterday morning

there seemed little doubt as to

who was taking the match

more seriously. Marie-Laure de

Lorenzi and Kathryn Marshall

strode purposefully to the first

tee while Jose Maria Canizares

slouched, a cigarette firmly

have a limited shelf life

women on the

of golf's top PGA senior

said. "In the final, we have a

Graham Ryding won his deciding semi-final match to give Canada a final appointment against England today. Ryding dropped the first game, but rallied to overwhelm Omar El Borolossy 4-9, 9-1, 9-2, 9-0 and give the fourth seeds, Canada, a 2-1 victory over the talented

third seeds, Egypt. Canada, who had never began inauspiciously when Gary Waite lost to Amir Wagih 9-3, 9-6, 9-6.

But Jonathon Power beat Ahmad Barada 9-5, 9-4, 9-5 to level the match before the 22year-old Ryding, the world No 32, clinched victory.

his partner, Antonio Garrido.

Of the second foursome, Tr-

ish Johnson and Alison

Nicholas, the US Open cham-

pion, started badly, Nicholas

sent her tee shot long and left,

a technical difficulty she was un-

able to work out until the 13th.

Bembridge and Noel Ratcliffe

were three up after Bembridge

birdied the par five. The heavy

rain of the last few days has left

the fairways sodden and the

greens heavy but quick. The

men settled back for what

seemed to be an easy coast

match that the men were ex-

pected to win but, he thought

they would "find it tough". The

Ratcliffe had said before the

home down the back nine.

By the eighth hole, Maurice

looked on smiling.

#### ATHLETICS

### Black set to

"The big one is the Europeans, and having the Commonwealth Games so close makes the choice very difficult," Black said. "I came on to the scene by winning the European championship so that is special

clamped between his lips, and knee-deep heather he left didn't do that when I played

of at the 11th was tough indeed.

ginning to look decidedly one-

sided, Karen Lunn and

Joanne Morley leading Tom-

tny Horton, the men's captain,

and John Morgan, and

Patricia Meunier-Lebouc and

Maria Hiorth also two up on

Brian Waites and Jim Rhodes.

conceded at the 12th to make

their match all square. By now

the balance of power in this

foursome had subtly changed,

as had Bembridge's mood. The

previously equable English-

man sent his tee shot at the 15th

into the heather and, after five

minutes of fruitless searching,

Ratcliffe began the lonely

trudge back to the tee. "You

Bembridge and Ratcliffe

The scoreboard was be-

Bembridge to back his way out with you at Le Touquet" a spec-

TENNIS

### Henman's call-up angers Mantilla

No sooner had Greg Rusedski retired hurt from the ATP Tour World Championship than his fellow Briton Tim Henman received an emergency call to join the world's élite eight. John Roberts, in Hannover, explains why Hall 13 at the Expo 2000 complex has been luckier for some than for others.

A bizarre week for British tennis came to a head yesterday when colleagues of various nationalities smiled benignly and sarcastically offered congratulations, "for finally having an Englishman at the World Championship".

Having gradgingly accepted the Canadian-born Greg Rusedski after close scrutiny of his British passport, the international tournament world was mildly amused to see Tim Henman, Oxford-born and bred. being ushered through the back door as the ninth reserve for the eight-man ATP Tour Champi-

There was an exception to the general good-natured banter prompted by Henman's dash from the Guardian Direct National Championships at Telford to replace the injured Sergi Bruguera against Yevgeny Kafelnikov in the concluding roundrobin match here. The Spaniards were seething.

Losing Bruguera (No 8) with an injury to the lower back after he had played two of his three matches was bad enough. And offence was taken when the ATP Tour's call down the rankings for an alternate was answered by Henman (No 17) rather than Barcelona's Felix Mantilla (No 16).

The problem was, time was running out and the choice of substitutes was limited. Thomas Muster (No 9) had already earned the \$40,000 (£23,700) alternate's fee here by stepping in for the injured Rusedski against Carlos Moya on Thursday night.

Marcelo Rios (No 10) was back home in Santiago, Chile. Richard Krajicek (No 11) was injured, Alex Corretja (No 12) was

tator remarked. "I haven't

done it since the old Oueen

died," Bembridge snapped.

Nicholas putted for birdie on

the 16th. Bembridge's tee shot

on the next landed in the mid-

dle of the lake, ensuring

Nicholas and Johnson won

three and one. The last game

saw Horton and Morgan pull

round a three-hole deficit, the

fourball finishing all square, the

match score tied at 21/2 each." It's

a good result", De Lorenzi said.

"The girls and I are happy."

for today's fourballs, but Hor-

ton will alter all bar his Span-

ish pairing. "These [women]

are class players," he said "It's

exactly what we suspected."

Her pairings remain intact

Going two down after

ineligible under the ATP Tour's rules because he was already playing doubles at an ATP Challenger event in Andorra. Petr Korda (No 13) was having a nose operation. Gustavo Kuerten (No 14) was in Brazil. Goran Ivanisevic (No 15) was injured.

When it came to No 16, say the Tour, Mantilla's telephone rang and rang without response. After the midnight deadline (local time) was passed, the call went out to Henman, No 17, and arrangements were made for him to play his singles quarterfinal against Jaime Delgado in Telford at 11am (Henman won, 6-4, 6-2) and then leave for Hannover by private aircraft.

Mantilia was not impressed when he answered telephone calls from the Spanish media yesterday. "It's not true that they [the ATP] called me or left a message. They have all my phone numbers, those of my coach and of the clubs where I play. I am feeling very, very angry. They don't have respect for me or the Spanish players. It seems they don't want to see us in their kind of tournaments."

The allegations were denied by Peter Alfano, the ATP Tour's vice-president for communications. "Mantilla was called. There was no answer," Alfano said. "We called all the players down the list with the offer, 'You have to pay your own way there, but we will give you \$10,000 and the opportunity to win \$100,000°. I'm sorry he feels that way, but the rules say you go down the players in the order of ranking. You can't just go to the player you want."

Last year, Henman had the good fortunate to compete at the \$6m Grand Slam Cup in Munich as the second alternate. He won \$425,000 as a semi-finalist, having lost to Boris Becker.

The Spaniards did have some cause for celebration yesterday. Carlos Moya, who defeated Pete Sampras in his opening roundrobin match, joined the world No 1 in today's semi-finals. Sampras's win against Pat Rafter, 6-4, 6-1, eliminated the Australian and enabled Moya to qualify on a countback of games.

Moya will play Kafelnikov for place in tomorrow's final against either Sampras or Sweden's Jonas Biorkman, who eliminated the world No 2. Michael Chang, 6-4, 7-5.

### sleigh ride

The race leader Gunnar Krantz powered through heavy snow in 55mph winds as Swedish Match covered 424 miles in 24 hours on the second leg of the Whitbread Round the World Race

### Tough Tallis just wants to be loved

Gorden Tallis hardly looks like the sort of vulnerable individual in need of particular care and protection. But that is what the Australian team management have tried to give him this week, declaring him off limits to the media while the controversy continues to rage over his distinctive contribution to last week's second British Gas Test.

Tallis' penchant for the high tackle in that match, coming on top of his notorious assault and hattery on Wigan's Terry O'Connor in the World Club Championship, has made him a popular hate-figure for the series.

That is a position he has inherited from other Australian forwards with a similar approach to their job, because Tallis is the latest in a long line of combative characters.

His spiritual grandfather would be Ray Stehr, a prop forward of the 1920s and 30s, who survived in first grade in Sydney from the age of 15 thanks to a pragmatic philosophy which he summed up as "get your retaliation in first". His pitched battles with his English opposite number, Jack Arkwright, are the stuff of legend.

There was Frank "Bumper" Parrell, who bit off an opponent's ear before Mike Tyson ever had the idea. Even the clasNoel "Ned" Kelly, while Les Boyd filled the same role with the unbeaten 1982 Kangaroos.

More recently, there have been intimidating enforcers such as Paul Harragon, who effectively ended the career of the



Tallis: Placed in Purdah Photograph: Varley/Wilkinson.

Great Britain prop, Ian Lucas, with a tackle in the 1992 Test in Sydney. Tallis's excesses are part of a long tradition and one in which British forwards have also shared enthusiastically.

"He's as dangerous as any of them." says the Great Britain manager, Phil Lowe, who, as a player, locked homs with some of toughest. "But he's more dangerous to his own side, because he's a loose cannon.

'60s had its feared hard man in rules have changed - you get away with a lot less these days."

Tallis has found that out the hard way: his impetuosity cost his side 10 points in the second Test. And yet he remains, for all his flaws, a potential match-

Like many of his predecessors, Tallis is one of the more quietly spoken and polite of players off the field. In an interview before he was placed in purdah, he even revealed that he wants English crowds to like him.

He would like to emulate his father, Wally, who played briefly for Leigh in the 1960s, by joining an English club. "But I'm not going to come over here and get boosed. If I know I'm coming over here to be a bad boy, I wouldn't come," he said.

Tallis is unlikely to come away from Elland Road with an enhanced view of British fans' opinion of him. The British management have done their best to wind him up during the build-up to the game and the process will continue after kick-

off tomorrow. "I only have a reputation over here," he insists. "Back home, I'm just a normal forward who plays with a bit of aggression. Over here, I'm labelled an axe murderer."

- Dave Hadfield

### miss Malaysia

Roger Black is ready to pull out of the 400 metres at next year's Commonwealth Games in Kuala Lumpur. The Olympic silver medallist wants to concentrate on regaining his European title the month before.

Black said the Commonwealth Games in September would come too quickly and he felt the Malaysian capital to be a far from ideal venue.

to me. It's the title I want back."

Shifting balance of power in battle of sexes

#### SALLING

### Krantz on

from Cape Town to Fremantle.

Krantz paid a price for his speed. The starboard steering wheel was damaged and so much water was rushing over the deck that a distress beacon was set off accidentally.

Wave damage was also suffered by second-placed Knut Frostad in Norway's Innovation Kvaerner. The webbing straps attaching spare sails to the weather rail were broken and some stanchions ripped out, allowing freezing water to pour through the holes in the deck.

### SPORTING DIGEST

Basketbali

NBA: Cleveland 85 New Jersey A: Washington 81 Minnesota 88 (cd; Philadelphia 99 Deless 98; LA Lelears 109 San Antonio 100 (cd; Santile 95 Defroit 89; Mindelless 102 LA Clippers 94. (A), Semin 94.

THURSDAY'S LATE RESULTS: Uni-bell tempty: Grester London Leopards in Simingham 94. Earol Jaguer: Greste A: Eles Pisen (Turk) 65 Linnopes (F) 64; Resi Mechd (St) 68 Maccobi Tel Ariv (st), Group B: Form (For) 84 Benetion Traviso (b) 61 Group C: Literapor (Turk) 74 Happel Jagussiam (st) 55. Group D: Bologna (f) 77 Cibona Zacch (Coroll 75

BOWTS

EUROPEAN INDOOR TEAM CHAMPIOMSHIPS (Jamey) Women's singles
round 18: reland (\*) Notice) to Guerney (A
Syron) 21-18, England (A Snew) by Jersey
(K Homen) 21-5; Israel (A Rubin) to Wales
(A Sutherland) 21-20, Fours round 18: England (S Richman, M Jackin: E Alderson, D
Harkin) by Instant (M Wildman, I Bell, D
Harkin) by Jensey (C Syroel, J Jones, S
Syroel, J Lowery) 17-16.

Boxing
Emanuel Steward, the chief trainer of Oscar De La Hoya, is to be replaced by Roberto Alcazar, who has worked with De La Hoya all of his career. De La Hoya is preparing for a World Society of Council waiterweight title defence against Wilfredo Rivera, of Puerto Pico, on 6 December at Atlantic City, New Jersey.

Cricket Great McGrath, the Australian fast bowler, has pulled out of the second lest against New Zealand which starts on Trunsday. McGrath under-went a scan on his groin which proved inconclusive, but the team plu-sionarapist fall the pacaman needsiotherapist felt the paceman need-ed two weeks' rest.

90! two weeks' rest.
TOUR MATCH (That day of four) Remaining, si, Patc West Index 44 (C L Hooper 148h), S L Campbell 78, P V Simmons 73, and 303 for 4 dec (P A Velaces 142, R N Lewis 94, S L Campbel 54, Abdul Cadeer Kharta X 267 (Beber Zamen 22) and 4074, Match Australia. 

Scott Taylor, the Leicester midfielder, will be out until the start of next season. Teylor, who suffered a lonee in-

jury in pre-season, had a setback in his rehabilitation programme and will require another operation. Terry Bullivant, manager of Reading has dropped his interest in the Barnet striker Seen Devine. The Third Division side are demanding £500,000 for their forward, but Bullivant, who used to manage Barnet, is adament that £100,000 is his final offer.

thet £100,000 is his final offst.

THURSDAY'S LATE RESULTS: European Under-21 Champtonship Gualityling Playoff first legt. Gracos 2 (Delias 78, N. Liberopoulos pan 90; England 6 at OR Station, Indiden). The Tissas FA Youth Cap First Round: Reserving 3 Oxford Und 2; Histon 3 (Zemeand & Northbert 2, Dutch Ledgas: Grassichep Dostinchern 1 (Nosat 7) Nov Massirich 2 (Delian 9), Sporish Languar Athetic Blum 3 (Zeganda 40, Aleka 9), Unzaiz 73) Burcelona ().

Golf
TAHEWO MASTERS (Gotanba, Japan)
Leading setand-round scores (Japan)
uniques stated; 135 N Casic 87 St. 135 M
Casic 71 65; Y Mizumaki 68 70; R Mazkay
(Aus) 67 69; L Westwood (GB) 68 69; M
OMestra (US) 68 07; D Cartes (Rep In) 65
68. 137 J Maria Olezzbai (Sp) 67 70. 138 T
Sughtura 69 69; C Tae churg (Trad 69 69;
K Hosokawa 68 70; P McWharray (Aus) 69
72; T Teshima 69 69; Selected 136 O ishii
(US) 70 68 141 B Jobe (US) 78 07; P Senior (Aus) 78 69; J Saman (US) 77 77; F Mnoza (Phi) 70 71; S Girn (Aus) 67 74, 142
G Marshi (Aus) 72 77; T Hamilton (US) 71 71
143 M Brooks (US) 72 77; B Jones (Aus) 71
72; Z (No (Sum) 69; X 144 L Kery-Joh (Tha)
71 73; C Rooca (II) 77 73; E Hisman (Tha)
71 73; C Rooca (II) 77 73; E Hisman (Tha)
71 73; C Rooca (III) 77; A Hisman (Tha)
71 73; C Rooca (III) 77; A Hisman (Tha)
71 73; C Rooca (III) 77; A Hisman (Tha)
71 73; C Rooca (III) 77; A Hisman (Tha)
71 73; C Rooca (III) 77; A Hisman (Tha)
71 73; C Rooca (III) 77; A Hisman (Tha)
71 73; C Rooca (III) 77; A Hisman (Tha) ALISTRALIAN WOMEN'S OPEN (Mel-

(Aust unlesse stateof): 137 J Crafter 55 72.
143 L Naumenn (Swe) 59 74; J Leary 57 75;
145 L Naumenn (Swe) 59 74; J Leary 57 75;
146 Naumenn (Swe) 75 68, 144 R HeitherIngion 71 75; A Murri 24 72; J Mile 70-74, 145
K Machinshi 77, 74 86 C Digmen 79 72; W
Doolan 69 77; M Hyon (Kon) 72 76; 147
S Ferron (No) 75 74, 148 T Claimorthy 72
76; M Lunn 72 76; S Cerbon 72 76; D Linnesson 74 74; L Lambert 71 77; 149 K Welch
24 75; T Durdin 75 74; D Pavich 71-78, Selected: 151 C Matthew (Sco) 72 72, 155 K
Onum (Den) 77 76.
KING HASSAN II PRO-AM TROPHY
TOURBLAMENT (Babel) Landing secondround scores: 139 M Fine (69) 72 67; H
Nystrom (Swe) 68 71, 140 D Howel (69) 67
73, 141 C Montgomerie (69) 73 68; D Hemmund (LIS) 72 69; 142 T Johnstone (Zin) 75
87; T Parrice (LIS) 73 69; I Garrido (Sp) 73
R 144 D Suthesterd (LIS) 70 77; T Leinnan
(LIS) 72 71; D Rummis (LIS) 73 71, 145 Y
Hassani (Mor) 74 71.
ITOEN WOMEN'S TOURNAMENT (Choman, Japan) Leading first-round scores
Linner values: statefact 68 K Hom H AlLinner values: statefact 68 K Hom H Al-

ITOEN WOMEN'S TOURNAMENT (Chemen, Japan) Leading first-round acores (Japan unless stated): 48 K Hgo, H Alfredsson (Swe). 70 S Meads, L Young-Me (S Kot), Y Fudo, Y Morqueth, A Nelsan, K Shibata, M Nomura, Selected 71 L Wen-In (Ing). 72 K Ae-Sook (Kot), L Dawes (SS): 73 K Ok-Hee (S Kot), M McGaire (NZ). L Young-Me (Kot), 74 K Woo-Soon (S Kot), T Hatu-teng (Tpa), Cheng Mai-chi (Trai); 78 H Hae-Shyun (Trai), 78 W Jap-Sook (S Kot), S Sora (S Kot), J Bartholomew (US); K Man-Soo (S Kot), T H Yush-ohm (Thai), 79 H Yuchen (Thai), T Al-yu (Thai), 80 T Yuchuan (Thai), T Al-yu (Thai), 80 T Yuchuan (Thai). Airyu (Thai), 80 T Yu-chuan (Thai).

PRAMA D'EL, REY EUROPEAN CUP (Por)

WPG European Reur 24: European Seniors

Tour 24: Fountegeach M. Lô Lorenzi end

K Mesphall M. J. M. Cantzaues and A. Gambo

2 holes; A Nicholas and T. Johnson bit N. Reiciffe and M. Bernbridge 3 & 1: S Weigh and

L. Maritz fost to D. Creamer and M. Greggen

7 & 5; P. Niuerier Lebous and M. Hjorth bet

to 8 Weises and J. Phodes 1; K. Latin and J.

Mortey halved with T. Horton and J. Morgen.

ice hockey HCE TIOCKEY
Hill: Westingen S Buffeto 2; Detroit 4 Ottows
2; Colorado 2 Philadelphia 1; Toronto 2 Chlougo 1; ST Louis 4 Bouton 2; Carolina 4 Calgary
2; Montreof 5 Phoenix 2; Los Angeles 6 San
Jose 3.
THURSDAY'S LATE RESULTS: Superinegue:
Newcastle 5 Nottengham 4. The Exprese
Cop: Carolif 4 Ayr 7.

Rugby League

The Great Britain prop. Brian McDermott, who plays against Australia to-morrow, has signed a new two-year contract with Bractions. Ten players with Super League experience are in the Great Britain Academy side to play France in the curtain-raiser at Elland Road. Wigan have made four becigoom staff redundant, including their assi coach, Ray Unsworth. Oldhem have appointed Paddy Kirwan

Sailing
WHITEREAD ROUND THE WORLD RACE
(second leg. 4,900 miles, Cape Town to Fremendle): Latent positioner. 1 Swecish Match
(Swe) G Krantz 3,000 miles to Sriett, 2 Innovation Reserver (\$407 K Frontid 200 miles to
leader; 3 Tosistos (US) P Standardage 340; 4Ment Cur. (Annexo) G Dalon 1937; 6 Ff Lenquage (Swe) P Cayend 597; 6 Brunel Synorgy (\$409) H Bouscholes 597; 7 SB Cut (68)
L Smith 542; 8 Crussio Racing (US) M Festier 887; 8 Ff Scaccion (Swe) D Guillou 745.

. .. Snooker LIVERPOOL VICTORIA UK CHAMPI-ONSHIP (Preston) First round: 0 O'Kane (NZ) tx 8 Petiman (Eng) 6-2; Q Henn (Aus)

ts J Johnson (Engl 6-3; P Hunter (Engl bt N Walter (Engl 6-3; T Shaw (Engl bt D Pinbow (Engl 6-4, M Barmett (Wall bt D Clerte (Engl 6-4, D Barmett (Wall bt D Clerte (Engl 6-4, D Baylor (N rt) bt W Brown (Engl 6-4, D Baylor (N rt) bt M Couch (Engl 6-4, Second round: N King (Engl 6-4, Second round: N King (Engl 6-4, D Hunes (Engl 6-4, Imatch resumes 1pm today); D Morgan (Wall backs D Dais (Wall 6-2 (resich resumes 1pm today); T Drapp (Mall leval with 1 McQulloch (Engl 4-4 (match resumes 1pm today);

Sports politics Chris Smith, the Culture and Sport Socretary, yesterday restiffmed the Government's commitment to a national Sports institute. Funding worth £180m from the National Lottery will be made available for a network of facilities, including £40m to £60m to be spent on a central headquarters at a site which has yet to be decided.

Squash
WORLD TEAM CHAMPIONISHUPS (Kunish Numbur) Semi-finate: Canada bt Eqypt 2-1 England bt Australia 3-0 (C Waller bt C Rotand 10-82-93-19-5, 5 Parks bt R Epites 9-3 9-3 9-6, 0 Herris bt B Martin 19-29-2, Fifth piace play-offs: Palistan 2 Malaysia 1; South Africa 3 Finland 0. Minth piace play-offs: Sweden 2 Walles 1 (D Forstund bt A Gough 6-9-82-17-99-2; FJohnson lost to D Saxas 8-9 10-9-39; Germany 2 New Zesiand 1 (E Smit bt S Cowle 9-5-9-9-3, T Benden bt A Thomson 9-1-9-7-9-7, R Curne lost to D Heart of Delivery 1 (E Smit bt S Cowle 9-5-9-9; France 2 Ireland 1 (T Lincou lost to D Ryan 5-9-5-9-9-4-9-9-10-9-10-9-10-9-9-9-9-9-9-9-9-9-9-10-Lower place play-offs: Austria 3 Dermanto C; Switzerland 3 Argentina

0; italy 2 Hong Kong 1; Spain 2 USA 1; Man-ico 2 Japan 1; Nigeria 3 Kuwait 0; Brazil 2 Portugal 1; Norway 3 Singapore 0.

Suffino
KYUSHU GRAMO TOURNAMENT (Fulsuolas, Japani) Sichi day (of 15): Yaman (won
a, Japani) Sichi day (of 15): Yaman (won
a, Iost 3) bi Konishidi (3-3); Minathiu (3-3)
bi Asanowaka (3-3); Minozumi (4-2) bi Kushinazumi (2-4): Kotonowaka (4-2) bi Kitakachiolol
(3-4): Delima (3-1): Bi Akinoshina (2-4):
Kotonishid (4-2) bi Takatoniki (1-5):
Tamakasuga (2-4) bi Takatonika (4-5) bi Hantanoshina (4-5) bi Hantanoshina (4-5)

Tennis ATP TOUR WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP (Planstown, Ger): Red Group: C Moya (St) is T Muster (Aut) 6-2 8-3; P Sampras (US) is P Ratter (Aut) 6-4 8-1; (Sampras and Moya quality for send-inals). White group: J Borkman (Swe) ist M Chang (US) 6-4 7-5. (Y Kedenikov and Bjorkman quality for send-inals). semi-finats).

ADVANTA CHAMPIONISHIPS WOMEN'S

TOURNAMENT (VIESNOVA, Pe) Second
rotict: I Spites (from) bt Mans Vento (Argi 62.6-1; L Desemport (US) bt C Martinez (Sp)
8-8-9; A Sanchez Viceno (Sp) bt A

Sughama (Japan) 6-1 7-5; A Huber (Ger)

bt L Reymond (US) 2-8 6-2 7-5.

GUARDIAN DIRECT BRITISH NATIONAL CHAMPONSHIPS (Retord) Men's singles Third round: T Herman (Oxfordative) bt J Delgado (Marwicks) 6-4 6-2; A Richardson

(Lincal bt A Parmar (Heris) 6-3, 3-6, 6-4. Women's singles semi-finals: S Smath (Es-ser) bt L Woodcotie (Surrey) 7-5 6-3; L La-timer (Warwelds) bt K Warne-Holland (Dorset) 7-6 6-0.

WORLD GRAND CHAMPIONS CUP (Os-sis Costis Holl, Japan): Women: Othe bt Brazi 3-1 (15-13 15-8 12-5 15-9); Russa tr China 3-0 (15-5 15-7 15-15); Japan bt South Korea 3-1 (15-12 15-7 15-15 15-10).

TODAY'S NUMBER

4.5m

The number of escudos [£15,000] the new Benfica board discovered had been spent on cigars in the previous six months. They also found that 140 mobile phones had been issued for use by club officials.

### Hereford's healing will be helped by settling an old score

Hereford lost their League status after a 1-1 home draw with Brighton on an emotional final day of last season. By extraordinary coincidence the two teams meet again in the FA Cup first round

When the season opened, a new set of photographs adorned the walls of the manager's office and home dressing-room at Hereford United, They showed players and supporters weeping, or with heads bowed, after May's fight to the finish with Brighton & Hove Albion. Now. like Hereford on that feverish afternoon, the pictures have come down.

The stark, black-and-white images were intended to instil in everyone connected with the club what it meant to relinquish Football League status, filling them with a desire to regain it via promotion from the Vauxhall Conference. But when the FA Cup's infinite capacity for coincidence brings Brighton back to Edgar Street today, they will be gathering dust behind a cuphoard.

We don't need photos to remind us of how bad it felt," reasons Graham Turner, Hereford's director of football. "That day, I remembered Bill Shankly's famous saying about football being more than a matter of life or death. He wasn't talking literally - there are obviously many more tragic circumstances - but the feeling of loss made me understand what he meant."

At the risk of opening old wounds, it may be appropriate to put the contest in context. When the final day of last season dawned, Hereford occupied bottom place in the Third Division. Brighton, the only other side who could be relegated, were level on points but had scored more goals. They needed only a draw to escape.

An own goal by Kerry Mayo

threatened to earn him the freedom of Hereford and eider for life, only for Robbie Reinelt to equalise and set up the most fraught 28 minutes imaginable. When it was over and Brighton had slipped their chains of seven months, the emotions which engulfed Turner's team belied the belief of many football fans that they have a monopoly of feeling for a club.

reportedly changed in silence, broken only by Sussex's songs of relief outside. "Oh no," says Turner. "What you could hear was our lads sobbing, some of them hardened pros who've been in

FA CUP COUNTDOWN

the game a long time. Whatever noise Brighton or their supporters were making was blotted out. It was like a dream.

"I've never seen so many grown men crying - on the pitch, in the boardroom, in the stands. It really was traumatic. I didn't think I'd ever see sport get to people so intensely. People might think 'Hereford's only a backwater, so it doesn't really matter', but it was shattering for those involved. The next day on TV I saw Middlesbrough fans in tears because they'd gone down. We lost far more.

Turner recalls feeling an "enormous sense of responsibility" as the final whistle sounded and snarling police dogs barred his way down the tunnel. There had been mitigating factors: he had not bought anyone for the best formed. The following weekend part of two years because of a transfer embargo and he was forced to sell five key players.

fering his resignation was the only honourable course.

Hereford's chairman, Peter Hill, refused to accept it, though it was the reaction of the supporters that persuaded Turner to battle on. "I got dozens of letters urging me not to give up. They even stuck posters on the doors saying I had to stay." As one who was hounded out

of Wolves, a victim of the very expectations he had raised, he appreciated the irony. When he was at his lowest ebb that Sunday, the Molineux owner Sir Jack Hayward rang and insisted on treating Turner and his family to a holiday in the Bahamas. He did not stop calling until his former manager

After the initial grieving, the club and city came round to thinking positively. The Conference offered a way back to the League, and by staying fulltime Hereford planned to emulate Lincoln, Colchester and Darlington in bouncing back. Currently lying eighth, they are handily placed, but even that position was not achieved without

Only weeks ago, the club's cash-flow crisis deepened to the extent that they were unable to meet their obligations to the players. Those paid monthly had to wait seven weeks between salary slips; the weekly earners were more than three weeks behind.

"These fellas, who aren't on big money anyway, have got young families, mortgages to pay and need to put petrol in their car," Turner says. "But they responded superbly. In a strange way, adversity seemed to bind them closer together." The situation had another

unexpected side-effect. Several of the squad live a considerable distance from Hereford and were struggling to make ends meet, so Turner cut the training back to a couple of days a week. The next Saturday he was struck by how well they perthey won 5-1 at highly placed

"I don't think you could do



Graham Turner is motivated by a day when he had 'never seen so many grown men crying'

Photograph: David Ashdown

look refreshed. I heard a rugby union player recently say that when they were part-time and trained just twice a week, the Saturday game was the highlight. Since they'd gone full-time and were training every day, it didn't have the same magic."

A Cup replay with Sittingbourne brought in urgently needed revenue (helping Hereford see the bright side of Trevor Matthewson's diving header into his own net in

has generated further revenue. fuelling Turner's optimism.

"There's a lot of pressing debts - the VAT people and taxman are chasing us - and we've lost £100,000 in Football League money. But we're actually operating profitably because we've cut right back on wages and support has been so good."

Hereford have no chief executive or commercial manager, and Turner reckons he spends as much time doing Kent). Likewise an average the accounts as on the training Turner, a similar draw this seagate which, at 2,800, is up on this ground. "It's been all hands to son could wipe out their prob-He decided, however, that of that every week, but they did time last year. The Brighton tie the pump to keep the club lems overnight.

afloat. I've done everything from driving a dumper truck to rotivate the pitch to selling advertising boards."

The Cup was the making of Hereford - their epic victory over Newcastle helped them gain election to the Fourth Division 25 years ago despite failing to win the Southern League - and it could be the saving of them. Two years ago they netted £200,000 from two tussics with Tottenham. According to

Before they start dreaming of Old Trafford or Anfield there is a score to settle. As they emerged into the night at Sittingbourne, a press man said to Turner: "You'll never guess who you've drawn." He did not need Mystic Meg to know that

the answer was the B-word. "Brighton haven't started well and won't relish coming back here," Turner says. "I won't regard it as revenge - one Cup win can't compensate for losing League status - hut we'd take a lot of satisfaction from

### Why Ntamark needs to make mark

The first round of the FA Cup takes places this weekend. Paul Newman says the GM Vauxhall Conference leaders offer one of the best prospects of an upset

While most of his footballing compatriots will focus their attention on Wembley today, Charlie Ntamark will be concentrating - until five o'clock at least - on affairs at a less celebrated English football venue.

Ntamark, a former Cameroon international, played for Walsall for seven years but left at the end of last season to study law at Birmingham University. In his spare time he now plays for the GM Vauxhall Conference side, Hednesford Town, who visit Hull City this afternoon in the first round of the FA Cup.

"I will be looking out for the Cameroon result but I have got a game to play in as well, which is more important," he said. This is going to be the first time I have played for a non-League side against a League team in a Cup game, so it will be interesting. I have been on the receiving end of a shock result before when Yeovil beat Walsall a few years ago and it wasn't a pleasant experience."

Hednesford have high hopes of victory over opponents who were recently celebrating their own giant-killing act. Mark Hateley's team knocked Crystal Palace out of the Coca-Cola Cup, but today they are in 22nd place in the Third Division.

Hednesford lead the Conference and their Cup exploits last season will give them particular encouragement: after victories over Blackpool and York City Hednesford gave Middlesbrough a scare or two before going down 3-2.

Hednesford offer one of the best giant-killing possibilities on a weekend when David and Goliath stories look hard to predict. Eight ties pit non-League clubs against one another, while 10 of the other 16 minnows have been drawn away from home.

However, four Conference teams with home advantage will fancy their chances. Hereford have the chance to earn revenge for their relegation by Brighton last season, Southport face York, Slough meet Cardiff, and Woking, the greatest giant-killers of

recent years, take on Southend. Woking are aiming to reach the second round for the ninth year in succession. Geoff Chapple, their long-serving manager. and Clive Walker, the former Chelsea winger, have both moved on, but John Mc-Govern, the former Nottingham Forest midfielder, has taken over the reins and continues the good work,

Hendon (against Leyton Orient) and Margate (against Fulham) are the other non-League teams with home advantage against League opposition. While the downfall of Kevin Keegan's Fulham tomorrow would provide the bigger shock, Hendon appear to have the better chance of glory against opponents from the bottom half of the Third Division.

Blyth Spartans aim to add to their legend when they face one of the great names of Cup history. Blackpool, while last season's headline-makers, Chesterfield, will hope not to go into role reversal at home to Northwich Victoria.

\*\*\*\*\*\*

#### **FA** censures Scales for bet

The Football Association is to write to the Tottenham defender John Scales to remind him of the rule banning players from gambling on matches after he revealed how he had won £800 on a game.

Scales said on last night's BBC Weekend Watchdog programme that he and a handful of his then Wimbledon teammates had staked money on him to score the first goal in an FA Cup match against Sunderland in 1994 and won.

"What we did was just for a bit of fun. through naïvety more than anything," he said. He added that he had only ever bet on football five or six times and would not do so again, given the FA's recent crackdown on gambling in the game. The FA is not expected to

take any disciplinary action against Scales in the light of his

What was so wonderful about the near-success of 1967 was that it was so totally unexpected When you support a team member what it was doing

which, within the space of when it heard that Kennedy had three exquisite years, won the been shot but Forest fans recall European Cup twice, the with delicious clarity what they League Cup twice, the League were doing when they heard Championship once and that Brian Clough was to bepulled in, also, a runners-up come the new manager. I was Wembley appearance, then that side is likely to be your all- waved down by a mutual friend deeply into the red and white house where we spent the afholds a special magic.

What was so wonderful

lunchtime pint when we were one. with every cup in Europe.

about the near-success of 1967 lowing years were, they repre- joy the expected ritual slaughter. another international striker, was that it was so totally unex-sented just a faithful reading of The game provided a spectacle and the emergence of the the ball ping-ponged, as if in pected. Looking back now, the the script. The surprise was not of bungling inadequates de- brilliant winger, Ian Storey- slow motion, off woodwork ed. breathtaking success of the late that success came, but that it molished by superior talent. Moore, promised better things and bodies. Moore strained to 70s seems like an impossible was not sustained. For Clough, Hull won, I was asked the score, for the future, but, as Christ-reach the ball with his head. It Kop dream. It did not seem so then. the line between brilliant for weeks to come, by grinning mas 1966 approached, Forest drifted slowly through the air The rest of the world may re- improvisation and eccentric faces that I hardly knew.

FAN'S EYE VIEW No-232 NOTTINGHAM FOREST BY STEPHEN SHAW spot in the League and a third being given a lift home after a blunder was, sometimes, a fine By contrast, 1967 came as a manding the signature of Joe starts, this looked like the real time favourite. Certainly, the who yelled the news across the complete shock. The previous Baker. The idea was absurd. names of Shilton, Birtles, street. He was bundled into the season had seen a narrow escape. If Forest's hesitant forays into 40,000.

Robertson et al are burned car and we returned to my from relegation. For me, that the transfer market took them souls of Forest's supporters. termoon sinking mugs of coffee lar humiliation. As a student at then it was to buy reserves, not Yet, for older fans, the team and discussing the future under Hull University, I had been de- current England internationwhich, a decade earlier, failed Brian Clough. By the time they lighted when the FA Cup draw al centre forwards. Baker's ar- est and Everton shared four narrowly to win the Double, left we had presented Forest had sent Forest to play the rival symbolised the shocks to goals. No one fancied a return Third Division locals at Booth- come. A return from long- at Goodison. There was a mad Wonderful though the fol- ferry Park. I went along to cu- term injury of Frank Wignall, lay in mid-table where they as if being pulled back by a su-

Six straight wins around the new year shot the side to third place. The traditionally elegant Back in Nottingham anger tingham responded magnifitook the form of a petition de- cently. After so many false thing. Crowds rocketed to over season had brought a particu- to other First Division clubs sixth round of the FA Cup.

around 22,000.

The climax came in the There was a minute left. Baker was off the field injured. Forscramble around the Everton left us without a trophy but with goal. Hearts soared and sank as

"entertained" crowds of pernatural force. It crossed the line. Pandemonium. The release of sound and emotion was vol-

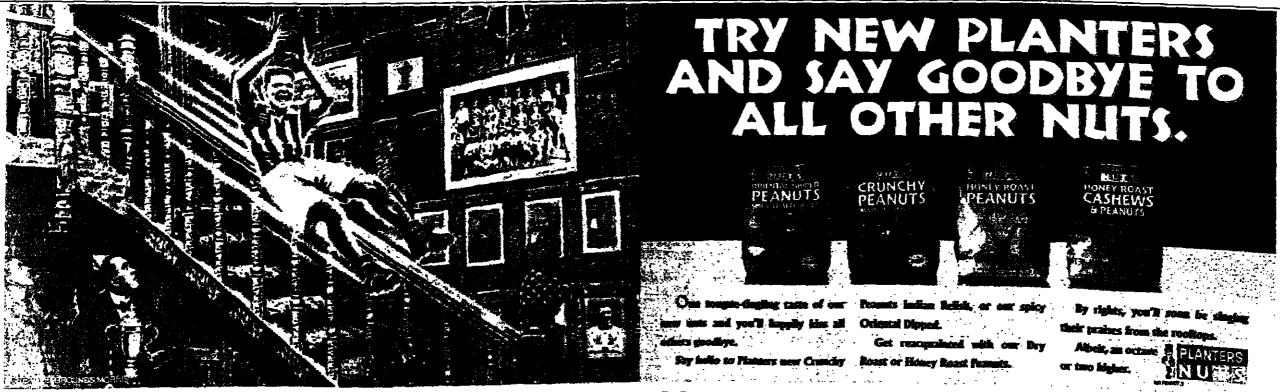
canic. The human frame can also-rans added a touch of take you no further down the steel to undoubted skill. Not- road to ecstasy than this. Alas, it was the last throw.

Without Baker, the edge was gone. The gap below Manchester United was too great. In the Cup, a rare long-range goal from Jimmy Greaves put Forest behind Spurs in the semi-final. Terry Hennessey's only mistake of the season let in Frank Saul for a second.

The dream was put on hold for a decade. The year of 1967 a memorable song

And we're louder than the

We're second in the League. And we should be at the top.



ing age

Major

check

TODAY

weekend fixtures

and pools

3.0 unless stated; all times GMT

World Cup play-offs

Second leg Belgium (1) v Rep of Ire(1) ...(7.0) (at King Baudouin stadium, Brussels)

Italy (1) v Russia (1) (7.45) ..... (at Stadio San Paolo, Naples)

Ukraine (0) v Croatia (2) (5.0) (at Republican stadium, Kiev)

Yugoslavia (7) v Hungary (1 ...) (4.0) (et Red Star stadium, Belgrade)

England v Cameroon (6.0)

Germany v South Africa (50) (at Rheinstadion, Düsseldori)

Nationwide League

1 Bradford City v Tranmere

2 Chariton v Crewe .....

3 Huddersfield v Reading

5. Nottm Forest v Birminal

6 Oxford Utd v Bury ...

9 QPR v Stoke ....

4 Norwich v Middlesbrough...

7 Port Vale v West Bromwich

8 Portsmouth v Sunderland

10 Sheffield Utd v Man City.

11 Stockport v Swindon .....

FA Cup first round

- Billericay v Wisbech .....

13 Riackmool v Blyth Spartans

14 Brentford v Colchester ....

16 Carshalton v Stevenage ...

- Cheitenham v Tiverton...

Chester v Winsford ......

17 Chesterfield v Northwich...

- Darlington v Sollhull ......

18 Exeter v Northampton .....

- Hayes v Boreham Wood . - Hendon v Lievton Orient (20)

- Hereford v Brighton .......

- Ekeston v Boston Utd .....

21 King's Lynn v Bromsgrove

22 Lincoln City v Gainsborough 23 Luton v Torquay .....

26 Plymouth v Cambridge Utd

27 Preston v Doncester ...... 28 Rochdale v Wrexham .....

30 Scunthorpe v Scarborough

31 Shrewsbury v Grimsby ....

- Walsall v Lincoln Utd ......

33 Woking v Southend .....

34 Wycombe v Basingstoke...

29 Rotherham v Burnley....

- Slough v Cardiff ....

32 Southport v York

Bell's Scottish

First Division

40 Airdrie v Morton...

Premier Division

35 Aberdeen v Rangers .

36 Cettic v Motherwell ....

37 Dunfermline v Hibernian ...

36 Hearts v St Johnstone .....

39 Kilmamock v Dundee Utd

League

20 Hull v Hednesford .

24 Morecambe v Emley

25 Oldham v Mansfield.

 Famborough v Dagenham 19 Hartlepool v Macclesfield

- Bristol City v Milwali .

15 Carlisle v Wigan...

- Bournemouth v Heybridge

Barnet v Watford ...

12 Wolves v loswich....

(at Wembley stadium)

First Division

International

friendlies

### My idol returns - the man who made winter tans acceptable The pink champagne was flowing yesterday as football manant - or were they peacock? We president and former active spell alongside Brian Moore. vinced by our arguments he's agers all over the country cooked them over a barbie member. John Bond. celebrated a victory in our fight made from all those cards ad-

for better conditions. You may not have read too much about our blockade as the Murdoch press, anxious to protect Sky's torical purposes). licence to print money, refused to report it but I can inform you it was a stunning success.

We took the campaign to Lancaster Gate and picketed the Football Association and Premier League. It was cold but Kevin Keegan organised the Harrods soup wagon to feed us and Terry Venables sent along a few copies of his game, The Manager, to keep us amused. Unfortunately Kevin got so annoyed at losing to Fergie he threw the pieces into the road where the soup wagon ran them over.

Neither Kev or the wagon turned up the next day but Jack Chariton wandered into Hyde Park with his 12-bore and

from one card I kept for his-

The FA, upset at being obscared by smoke, now promised us "a full and frank enquiry with the utmost urgency", but we weren't having that. We could all be sacked by the time that was finished - or dead. This led to an escalation in

our campaign. We forced Richard Keys and Andy Gray to admit a live Sky televised game was abysmal to watch. Thanks to Joe Kinnear and Martin O'Neill for arranging it. However, this still didn't

achieve our objectives. The FA tried to fob us off with the offer of a knee-length sheepskin coat, box of Havanas and a silver cigar lighter each, but we said no despite an impassioned standards of punditry which en-

Eventually we were forced

cal telephone boxes (apart ly the Jelly and Bert the Inert were held hostage in the Mark Dennis Disciplinary Room un- I missed out on a bit of contil the FA gave way. First we twisted a few arms to get Howard Wilkinson's Chaner for Quality passed by the FA Council (a few videos of their activities on FA jollies, and a threat to send them to the press and their wives, did the trick). That persuaded Howard, our mole

> Sheffield Wednesday. Then Wednesday were encouraged to bring back one of the legends of the game, a hero to us all, in Big Ron. He is, I am not ashamed to admit, an idol. He made chunky jewellery, designer sunglasses,. dodgy defences and winter tans acceptable. He also set

in the FA, to turn down

Welcome back Ron, and any chance of three points when we vertising "massages" in the lo- to storm the building and Kel- play Wednesday in a few weeks?

All that excitement meant troversy at the Old Comfield. It emerged that the chairman, Sir Hirem Firem, had given a personal donation of £500,000 to the local Tory Party the day before the local council's planning committee passed our application for a new stand at the Graveyard End.

There had been quite a lot of opposition to this, mainly from relatives of all the bodies we need to dig up to sink the foundations. However, the council appreciated that a town this size needs a Premiership club and we can't sustain our place if we don't expand. When news of the donation emerged there was a brief problem with one of the opposition council-

even agreed his construction firm will build it for us.

We were thinking of running a competition for the name of the new stand but it now looks like being called "The Sir Hirem Firem Stand". Even the fanzine is fairly happy with that, they only want to add one word: "Memorial".

We've no fixture today because it's international week so we're taking the team to the Canaries for a short break Norwich is lovely in November. Unfortunately Shaun Prone can't make it because he has a chest infection after accidentally stabbing himself with a poppy. Ivor Niggle is also out, he sustained a groin problem during filming for one of those fake videos we sent to the FA

Barry Gaffer was talking to Glenn Moore

### SIDELINES Blues in red on Forest deals

ham fans during their slide down the First Division, but as the man as the man whose goal



brought the European Cup to Nottingham Forest in 1979 the visiting manager may receive an unusually civil reception at the City Ground today.

Britain's first £1m footballer when he left Birmingham for Forest, Francis was the most vaunted of the numerous players who moved between the clubs during the Brian Clough era. Kenny Burns, an undisciplined striker at St Andrew's, blossomed into Footballer of the Year after being converted into a defender in the East Midlands.

Peter Withe, centre-forward in Clough's championship side, was also bought from Blues. Colin Todd and Jim Montgomery made the same short hop, Archie Germill going the opposite way. Paul Hart and Steve Wigley, now on Dave Bassett's coaching staff, later played for Birmingham after leave\_3 Forest, as would John Sheridan and Steve Sutton.

Others who served both include Dave Mackay (as manager), Jim Bassett, Terry Hennessey, Trevor Hockey and Geoff Vowden. Forty years ago Bassett scored in 14 out of 16 games for Forest only to flop at Birmingham, who tend to have the worse of the deals. Neither, however, saw the best of Gary Bull, despite his striking feats at Barnet and relation to one of the region's serial marksmen.

#### Ten things that the Cameroon team might be missing today

of Cameroon's 20,000 miles of roads are paved or sealed

2 Achs. Not to be sneezed at, achu is a sta- 7 The Korup national ple dish made from cocoy- park and rainforest. One ams and is typically eaten with vellow soup.

3 '33' Emon beer. "Tastes nice when it's chilled," said a nice chilled High Commission spokesman, who sounded like an ex-

4 Tan-tan weekend. Cameroon's popular Sunday TV consumer entertainment show, a items. tantalising cross between the Money Programme and Noel's House Party. 5 Makossa. Sexy dance forgiven for thinking it is ophonist Manu Dibango,

The excitement of pot- 6 The Cameroon Tribune. holes. Under 12 per cent Unbiased, informative, comprehensive, up-todate newspaper. (According to its main backers, the government.)

> of the world's richest and most unspoilt equatorial ecosystems.

8 Pygmy hunter-gather-

9 Joint affinity to England and France. Cameroon is the only officially bilingual country in Africa, and a place where dog and frog are not slang, but menu

10 Ndole - bitter leaves with nuts and spice. The Cameroon side could be the words 'Spice', 'leaves', with a name deriving from 'bitter' and 'nuts' being so the word kosa - to strip off. common this week.



Photograph: Allsport

## at least until the summer

Big Ron back,

Ron Atkinson became Sheffield Wednesday manager for the second time yesterday. But, as Jonathan Foster reports, he

might not last long.

The Christmas tree in Hillsborough's foyer is a patently temporary presence, decorated in minimalist style. Ron Atkinson should last longer than 12th Night, but scope for elaborate dealing will be minimised during his second period as

Sheffield Wednesday manager. The giant Redwood of football management yesterday ened a contract which lasts only until the end of the season. It could be characterised as spadework for a young sapling, with one priority task.

David Pleat was sacked 13 days ago after a sequence of increasingly demoralised team bottom of the Premiership. Atkinson was the man they wanted to take Wednesday upwards, their chairman. Dave Richards, said yesterday. But he could not dispel the impression that what they wanted was determined only by who they could get.

Howard Wilkinson, Danny Wilson, Martin O'Neill and Jim Smith had claims or aspirations to the job but, for the time being, had commitments elsewhere. The one available manager with strong Sheffield credentials and proven ability was the one dismissed by the Spice Girls.

Apart, of course, from Old Spice - or Judas, as Atkinson was branded in 1991 as he left Hillsborough for Aston Villa and fans defaced his parking bay. Those memories were vivid this week as he asked local journalists if it was safe to return. It was - even one of the '91 school of graffiti artists was heard outside the Park Tavern saying Ron was the best man for the immediate task.

There are better players at Wednesday now, Atkinson said, than when he took over in com parably parlous circumstances in February 1989. He turned towards the Kop and talked about inspiring again its great, rolling roar. Perhaps he remembered the roar beneath which, three grotesque defeats left a gifted but months into first first spell, Dean Barrick struck a fourth consecutive corner. Steve Whitton's head beat Gary Pallister's to the ball. Wednesday stayed up and

> Middlesbrough were relegated. But Atkinson took Wednesday down the next season, a team of seven internationals barged out of the First Division by Pleat's Luton Town.

It was a more coy, minimalist Atkinson yesterday than many

face is still polished mahogany, as if he uses Pledge for after shave. But there was no iewellery. not even cuff links, and there was dirt behind his finger nails.

Back in the spotlight: Ron Atkinson in Sheffield yesterday

"The impression I've been given is that there has been a big groundswell of support towards me coming back," Atkinson said. There had been "one or two tickles" for jobs abroad, he sought challenges more than anything else, and Wednesday could finish in a comfortable position. After that, "I would be very happy

in some sort of capacity." The 5-0 defeat of Bolton last

will recall. He arrived this time week had been "a massive result", from Coventry, not Madrid. His and behind that remark may lie arrangements of massive significance, Peter Shreeves, Pleat's assistant, prepared the team for that game. Three erstwhile injured players suddenly recovered. Shreeves will be staying at the club. Sources claim he has the confidence of the players and his continued influence was a condition

of the offer made to Atkinson. Atkinson spoke warmly of "Shreevesie". They first met when Atkinson the centre-half tripped Shreeves the centre-forward and conceded a penalty. Atkinson chuckled at the memory, and settled down to watch

his new players in a friendly against Huddersfield Town. He is 58 now, and a manag-

er for the seventh time. It is probably his last to run a big club, and there is money to spend if he needs to - perhaps as much as £10m. "Ron has a contract until the end of the season. Wednesday will then take a look at the long-term effects and see whether he is the man to take us forward," Richards said.

They will probably axe him next summer, but Ron Atkinson has a chance of something more enduring at Hillsborough. Unlike the Christmas tree, he may yet become part of the furniture.

#### NAME OF THE GAME No 9: WYCOMBE WANDERERS

Originally formed in 1884 as North Town Wanderers by furniture trade workers (the club's nickname of "Chairboys" derives from High Wycombe's tradition as a furniture-making town), the club changed its name to Wycombe Wanderers in 1887. The name is believed to derive from the most famous of all the pioneering teams in the early years of the FA Cup, The Wanderers, who visited the Buckinghamshire town in 1877 as Cup holders for a second-round tie against the original High Wycombe club. The Wanderers won 9-0 and went on to win the Cup that season for the fifth and last time before disbanding in 1882.

THIS WEEK

On 16 November 1994, England played a Wembley friendly match against West : the history books when they African opposition when they met Nigeria.

The England manager, in high esteem at the time. "Le Tissier sacrificed for sake of system" read an independent described the mercurial Guernseyman as "the most talented player available".

Venables persisted with a basic 4-4-2 and fielded a side including Dennis Wise and John Barnes in midfield, and Peter Beardsley and Alan Shearer up front After a closely contested

consider their task away to Hendon in the first round of the FA Cup today. Although Terry Venables, chose not to the Isthmian League club are start the match with not the force they were in Southampton's Matt Le amateur football's heyday, Tissier, despite his being held : they have a great FA Cup tradition. Hendon's finest hour

HISTORY LESSON

Leyton Orient might be ad-

vised not to delve too far into

came in 1974, when Rod headline above an article that : Haider's second-half equaliser earned a 1-1 draw against Newcastle at St James' Park in the third round in front of a crowd of 31,606. The replay was switched to

Watford's Vicarage Road ground and drew a crowd of 15.385. Malcolm Macdonald scored a hotly disputed goal for Newcastle after 14 minutes match, England emerged as -- a linesman was flagging for 1-0 victors, courtesy of a offside - and the First Divi-David Platt header, scored sion side went on to complete in his 50th international cap. : a comfortable 4-0 victory.

#### THIS WEEK'S TRANSFERS **Transfers**

Free transfers or undislosed less unless stated Michele Padovano flores Michele Padovano (forward) Ju-ventus to Crystal Palace (£127m); craig Russell (forward) Sunderland to Manchester City (£1m); Nicky Summerbes (wing-back) Man-chester City to Sunderland (£1m); chester City to Sunderland (£1m); bavid Johnson (forward) Bury to lpswich (£800,000); Marik Taylor (£200,000); Chris Swalles (£46nder) £200,000); Chris Swalles (£46nder)

ipswich to Sury (£200,000); Jussi Janskelainen (goallesper) VPS Vasta (Fin) to Bohon (£100,000); Paul

er) Coventry to Swindon (fine). Loans/trials

Tony Cottee (forward) Leicester to Birmingham; Bjorn Johansen (mid-fielder) Tromso (Nor) to Southamp-ton (mai).

Contributors: Phil Shaw, Nick Harria, Paul New Readers' contributions welcome. Send to Sidelines, Sports Dask, The Independent, 1 Canada Square, Canary Whart, London E14 5DL E meil: sport @ independent.co.uk

### WEEKEND FIXTURE GUIDE

#### TODAY Football

GM VALOGHALL CONFERENCE: Kettlering v Dover, Leek v Guteshead; Rushdan v Kid-damainster; Stalybridge v Halitast; Yeovil v Telford

daminister, Stalybridge v Heištext, Yeovil v Tellard.

1981ard.

1 Homehunch; Southel v Croydon Addetic.
UNHSOND LEAGUE Presider Division: Acchogon Stanley v Frickley; Alfredon Son v Achuman; Alfrichem v Redelfie Borough; Barnow v Guissley; Bishop Auditand v Charley;
Lencester v Heiner; Leigh Rill v BernbeBridge; Spennymoor v Hyde Ltd. Fract DMstors Bradiord Park Avenue v Hernogae Row;
Belper v Parsley; Budton v Worldington;
Droyleden v Congleton; Graef Herwood VAtition Litts; Green v Winds; Stockschtige v Reford; Whitby v Matiock; Whitey Bay v
Eastwood Bown; Worldsop v Filton.

port lohi.

SCREWFIX DIRECT LEAGUE Premier Division: Berntesple Town v Bridgweise Town;
Pristol Martor Parm v Cutre Town; Chard Town
v Brisington; Briche v Beckwijf Let; Meitshem Town v Torington; Psuten Rovers v.
Joynstein Town; Taurion Town v Chippentem Town; Westbury Und v Bideford.
NORTHERN COUNTIES EAST LEAGUE
CUP Second round: Armstoops Wellow v Selby Town; Borrowsein Victoria v Tadcaster Al-

41 Dundee v Ayr .... 42 Hamilton v Falkirk tord; Whithy v Massocy v Flaton.
DR MARTENS LEAGUE Premier Divisions.
Againson v Bert; Surton Atton v Barmorth;
Crawley Bown v Rotherd Town; Dorchester v
Ashford Town; Greeley Rouers v St. Loontrits;
Helsensen Town v Forest Green; Hestings
V Gloussear City; Nuneston v Selectury;
Worcester City v Strappoune.
OR MARTENS LEAGUE Bildean Divisional R
C; Warnets v VS Rupp; Results Town v Bedworth Unc. Reddich Und v Exechant Ind;
Stouthridge v Shepshed Dynamo; Sulton
Division: Besting v Neupont AFC; Cleansford City v Cranceter Town; Chothor for Town
Cyty Reproduct; Clevedon Town; Witney Town;
Selt & Belveders v Farstern Town; France Attsite v Westpoolster Heart Even v Fleet Town;
Torbridge Angels v Belcick Town; Trowbridge
Town v Res Town; Weston-supe-Mars v Newport Loft.
SCREWPEN DIRECT LEAGUE Premier End. 43 St. Mirren v Plaith . 44 Stirling v Partick ... Second Division 45 East Fife v Ciyde .... 46 Forter v Queen of the South

47 Livingston v Brechin .....-48 Stenhouseman v Clyde .... 49 Stranger v Inverness CT... Third Division - Berwick v Queen's Park....

 Dumbarton v Albion Royers - East Stirling v Cowdentheath - Montrose v Alica .... - Ross County v Arbroath ...

TOMORROW FA Cup first round Margate v Fulham (10) ... Notis County v Colwyn Bay (120) blort, Garforth Town v Arnold Town: Gagnesia 
v Curzon Anthon; Glassinoughton Walkara v 
Thackley; Hall Road Rangers v Halland: Firtogalis Pathway v Eccleshii List; Hatfield Main 
v Canaby List; Hudrall Town v Staveley MAV; 
Meltiy Alahn v Caselt Town: North Ferify List 
v Sheffleid: Parlugate v Brigg; Town: Pictering 
Town v Monstrough Brigg; Pontainad Colfarles v Liversedge; Rossington Main v Ott.
Whatford Engles v Brodsworth

sett Albion; Winterior Englis v Biodisworth MW.
Winkstron Lead (Central Lead (Central Lead)
Winkstron V Remarkstram Town; Steppey Utid v Rubridge Weller, Swentey Furness
v Whitestells Town League Cup second rounds Chattern Town v League Cup second rounds of Restourne Town v Partifiett Helitarn Town v Saldisen. Util Horstenn YMCA v Peacenteen & Telescorther Littlehampton Town v Rednitz, Hergmer v Shoreteen; Selsey v Whitestowic, Wild v Mile Call.
Util SPORT UNITED COUNTIES LEAGUE Premier Division; Bourse v Cogenhos; Desborur, Kerneston v Minters Blackstons Long Busidey v Hobesch; Stendold v Budding: Stamburt v St. Recht Stond Chy. Chadderton v Heisingden; Callenge v Vender Girk, Blackgool Rounds Solitar Town v Wathroffer.
NORTH WEST COUNTIES LEAGUE Fine ID-vision: Atherton Colleries v Vender Girk, Peacologic, Narawich Town v Mathroff Girk, Prescot Cabise v Killington Miller Coll Roys; Swenty A Atherton Lift, Newcastle Town v Busine Road, Prescot Cabise v Killington Miller Cit Roys.

Jewison Wessell League Pamaia, astrobottom Usd v Warnington Town.

Jewison Wessell League Lymington v
Amestructures; Newbury v Whitchardt, Totton v Bemerich Heatir, BM Sports v Gesport
Borough: Brodspraust v Windoms Rwit;
Christchardt v Bournenoutt, Downon v
Thetchard Town; East Cowes Vice v
Portsmouth RN; Romsey Town v Andomor
Ewison Bastrean League Premier Division: Dies Town v Sudbury Warnderzor; Fakentein Town; Warnderzor; Fakentein Town; Warnderzor; Fakentein Town; Newmarket Town v Hernelch &
Partestor; Schem Town; Ranges v Gordstor;
Sudbury Town v Schemater Town; Tiptiee Usd
v By Clay Watton Und v Cascion Town; Moodhidge Town v Histaad Town; Whodham v Histon.

IDI.

NYTERLINIK EXPRESS NEGLAND Allamost
Barwell v Krypassey Victoria; Storwich Town
v Bridgnorth Town; Chase Town v Krige Nortown; Coldavy Unit v Rished Town; Krige Norsal Ville v Rocesse; Pessions Town v Willenthal
Town; Stepanial v Sancheel Borough; Starford Town v Bolomers St Neclassis; Wednerfield v Shifted Town; West Mickends Police v
lesisconen Hernian. Held v Shifted Town; West National Prijespreen Having.
ARNOTT INSURANCE NORTHERN
LEAGUE Place Division: Bedington Breiss
v Northestation; Billington Systematic v South
Shields; Crook Town v Stockton; Durston v
Ourtern City; Guisborough Town v Steaken
Rad Star; Jentow Roofing v Billingham Town;
Morpeth Town v Shidon; Munton v Easington;

Pennith v Consett; Tow Leev Town v FITM New-castle. PRESS & JOURNAL HIGHLAND LEAGUE: Press a Journal, High Land Lengue.

Cladinacidal in Pores Mechanics, Desconvalue Sigin City, Fort William v Bross Rangers.

Fraserburgh v Naim County, Keith v Huntly;

Lossiannouth v Peterhead; Rothe v Cove

Rangers; Wich Anglerny v Bucke Thistie Rengaes: Wich Academy v Buckle Thiele Statisty OFF Urish LEAGUE Premier Divi-sion: Ballymens v Omagh Town; Cafforwise v Linfeld; Colonalne v Artis; Cruanders v Gle-netor; Portadom v Glentpart, Flatt Division; Ballydare v Distillary; Carrick v Limaxedy Urit; Dungermon Swifer v Larne; Newry v Bengo; LEAGUE OF WALES: Bangor City v Cass-was (230); Consylv Cembran (20); First Total V Cambratthan Town; (230); Irias Cable-Tel v TRS Liansantifraid (230); Irias Cable-Tel v TRS Liansantifraid (230); Irias Cable-Tel v TRS Liansantifraid (230); Irias Cable-Tel v (230); Rhysider Town; Cambratfon Town; (230); Rhysider Town; (20); Weishpool v Haverfordresst (250).

**Rugby Union** England v Australia (2.0). NTERNATIONAL MATCH imiend v New Zealend...

Instant v New Zealand

[at Lanadowne Road)

CHELTENHAM AND GLOUCESTER CUP

Group A: Pydo v Northwopton (20); West
Hertiepool v Gousseter (20); Grootp 8: Exser v Drail, Group C: Retail v Waterio (20);

Group D: Richmond v London Scotlan (130).

JENSON MATRONAL LEAGUE Own (Jenson
Weist): Newbury v v Harrogata 'Origy vWiterischie (23); Roselm Park v London

Weist): Newbury v v Harrogata 'Origy vWiterischie (23); Reselm Park v London

(230); Rugby v Reselm; Wisconeter v Not
drighem. Two North: Aspatha v Seddjey Park

(230); BrainghomysSchild v Liendeid (230);

Kandel v Hindley (230); Manchester v Win
rington Park (23); Preston Grassfrupores. v

Stouthtidge (230); Sheffeld: v Sandel (230);

Websell v Namelion (230); Bridgeater v Ra
druft Christ v Weston-8-Mere Haven v

Chelentran (230); Propouthy Well Potre (231)

WELSH NATIONAL LEAGUE Division Ones

Circlestram (2:20); Psymouth y Net Potos (2:20).
WELSH MATICHAL LEAGUE Division Ones.
Stockwood v Merthy (2:0); Caerchilly v
Messing (2:0); Durwant v Treatchy (2:0); Landovery v DWIC (Caertill Inst); (2:0); Newtotige v Abertlery (2:0); Proposit v Series (2:0); SRU TENWENT'S PREMIERSHIP Division One Hamick v Currle (2:0); Heriots FP v String (Coursy (2:1); West of Scotland v Jack-Forest (2:0). Division Newton Two Durden HSFP v Kiebo (2:0); Kiebon V Manastrugh (2:0); Kiebon V V Manastrugh (2:0); Kiebon V V Manastrugh (2:0); Kiebon V V Manastrugh (2:0); Michael V V Glesgow Hawke (2:0); Fall Division Towar Ay v Stewartry (2:0); Gordonians v Stresets Mel FP (2:0); Sangarrouth v Associate (3:5) P (3:

NATIONAL LEACHE Presser: Bertord Tiges v Old Loughtonisms (120); Beeston v Read-ing (130); Cantectury v Techniquen (20); East Ghosteau v Cannock (20); Guildions v South-

gate (20); Hourslow v Doncaster (190).
First Division: Bournville v Warrington (230);
Bromley v Harlsston Magolius (20); Cheknatord v Stoupport (25); Firiphrands v Brocklands (III); Gloucester City v Oxford Unix (190);
Harrystead & Westmineter v Hull (20); Haerall v Bushards (145); Loughborough Students v Bushards (145); Loughborough Students v Lewes (123); Oxford Hawley v Surbiann (10);
Shaffield v lace (120); St Alberts v Indian Gyminters (10).

Gymbrans (10).

BSI, SOUTH Premier: Bedsenhem v Wolking:
Bournemouth v Wimbledon; City of
Portemouth v Christeser; Farehem v Did Withgiffiams; Gore Court v Purity; Herre Bay v Anchorisms; Meldemhead v Turbridge Wells:
Richmond v Eastboot; Trojans v Remgarite;
Winchesser v High Wycombo.
WEST OF EINGLAND & GOUTH WALES Premiler: Bristol Univ v Swarnest; Cheltenhem v
Clavedor; Robinsons v Exeter University; Wisston-super-Mare v Turbron Vale; Writtchurch v Beth Buccs.
ADNAMS EAST Premier: Bishoos Stortford ADNAMS EAST Premier: Bishoos Stortford

v Clarton; Cambridge City v Ipswich; Cem-bridge University v Colchester; Crostyx v Pe-terborough Town; Sudbury v Luton Town. DTZ MEDIANDS Premier: Biosecrafield v Northempton Seints; Edgleston v Bloweich; Kheise v Covertry & N Warwick, North

Notts.
North Dryston One: Ser Rhydding v Northon; Burtam University v Chester: Neston v Harrogate; Southport v Formby: Swalwell v Timperley; Wigan v Steffield Berliera.
Wolfelder: NATIGNAL LEAGUE: Pressier: Gitton Scottlein Lile v Doncaster (1230); Flightonin v Otton Terraquest (120); Stough v Englere (120); Surjon Coldisati v Josevich (1130). First Division: Bracknet v Chematord Highway Division: Bracknet v Chematord Highwood Division: Students v Brackford (230); Wirebedon v Sunderland Bedans (120); Sacoad Division: Selfig v Poynton (130); Old Loughtonians v Blusharis (10); West Wirney v Aldridge (120); Wolding Swifts v Sherwood (240).

Basketball BUDWEISER LEAGUE: Wedlord Royals v Converse Crystal Palace (730); Thames Val-ley Tigers v Derby Storm (80); TT L&E Wor-thing Boers v Eucle London Tollers (80). ring Does v Cabe Lorder (Mary Bosser Riders V Newcastle Engles (730); Menchéster Grants v Newcastle Engles (730). Menchéster Grants v Newcastle Engles (730). MEMS NATIONAL LEAGUE First Division: Cartiff v Oxford.

ice hockey SUPERLEAGUE: Ayr v Brackneti (630); Shaffaid v Manchester (70); Besingstoke v Not-Other sports

BILLIAROS: UK Chempionship (Preston). BCDGMC: Whitchurch Letsure Centre, Bristot. Top of bill fight to be arranged. SNOOKER: UK Championahip (Presion). SWIBMING: British Grand Phy (Leicester). TEMNIS: National Championships (Tellord).

Football FAL HARP LAGER MATIONAL LEAGUE Pre-mier Division: Cork City v Sharmock Rovers (20); UCD v Bohemiens (205). Rugby League BRITISH GAS Third That Majoric Great Britain v Australia (20) (at Ellend Road).

TOMORROW

Rugby Union (at Swemen)
JEWSON NATIONAL LEAGUE Two South:
Teberd v Heriby (230); Cemberby v Esher (230);
SRU TENNENTS PREMIERSHEP Division
One: Melrose v Boroughmuir (235).

Hockey

EHA CUP Fourth round: Bromley v Beeston
(ID): Cannock v Harieston Magnies 20): Canlarioury v Guldstond (20); Chichester v Sheffield
(ID): Doncaster v Bournemouth (20); Sast Gristeed v Resoning (20); Herropate 3 Weetminster v Camfordige City (20); Harropate v
Socuport (20); Houselow v Surphort (20); Sewitch v Outlood Hawks (130); Norton v St. 44harrs (223); Old Carsinghens v Familiam (130);
Old Laughtorians v Peterborough flows; Richdington (130); Winchester v Spalding (20); Beddington (130); Winchester v Spalding (20);
EHA WOMEN'S CUP Third round: Aldridge
v Horsham (UI); Berkhampstad & Herrie
Heringstad v Eieter (230); Blustnerts v St hee
(230); Brackenal v Bridgeporth (1230); Beatford
Switherbank v Sunderland Bedane (30); Burnt
Ash v Chinson Remitter (130); Chrimsopd
v Brackenal v Bridge (130); Staffend
(10); Grosby v Didabury Greye (20); Directser v Brochourne (1230); Sast Grientead v Witley Bey (120); Eusterion Magnies v Windermore HE
(10); Fertinghom v Hermoth v String (20); Episcon v
V Lerspool (1303); Europath v Scottle
(20); Laicaster v St Abane (1230); Middeton
Asopor v Swindon (20); Northumpon v Benninger
(20); Stration v Canterbury (20); Surbury v
Beglord (10); Surburghon v (20); Surburgh r 200) v Stough (10); Southampton v Goucester City (20); Stratford v Centerbury (20); Surbury v Beschert (13); Surbon Codifield v Josephch (230); Taunton Valle v Blackburn (20); Trojens v West Winney (130); Tynetidle v Loughborough Sac-dens (20); Weston v Miston Keynes (25); Win-bladon v Euwastrians (130); Wolding v Kessering Cash

Basketball BUDWESTER LEAGUE: Shaffeld Sharks v Paugaot Bullets Ermingham (8.0); adictas Geater London Leocards v Chester Jess (830).

Other sports BILLIARDS: UK Championship (Preston). SNOOKER: UK Championship (Preston). SWIDULIDAG: British Grand Prix (Leicester).

### Stage set for **England** understudies

To many people today's England international against Cameroon at Wembley is just a meaningless friendly. it isn't to the players.

With the World Cup just seven months away, and England not playing again until February, this is their chance to leave a lingering impression over the winter months. Glenn Moore reports from Bisham Abbey.

Wembley's casting couch welcomes a clutch of aspirants this evening as auditions open for the potentially award-winning role of Alan Shearer's under-

With the Newcastle United striker still a far from certain starter for England in France next summer, Robbie Fowler, Andy Cole and Chris Sutton are seeking the chance to nudge Ian Wright aside as understudy-elect.

With the less promising position of David Seaman's reserve also up for grabs, along with defensive and midfield positions, there is much of interest in tonight's match against the potentially awkward Cameroon, one of the World Cup's earliest

As Wright is lacking form and confidence and nursing an ankle injury he is unlikely to start, nor is Sutton who is new to the squad. This leaves Fowler and Cole as the most likely first contenders and who plays may depend on whether Paul Scholes is fit after a chest cold.

If Scholes does play, Cole, who has played only 33 minutes in two substitute appearances for England, may get the nod but Fowler remains favourite. He has started twice, come on as substitute four times and scored once so far. His ability to take chances is not in doubt but his ability to find them at international level remains unproven as he did in Rome not by default. does his temperament after s for retaliation

yesterday, "but there are things in his game which he needs to improve on at this level. You are marked tighter so movement

striker, is relishing the challenge

of facing England at Wembley

tonight but believes that Glenn

Hoddle's side are the clear

the moment, having scored 10

goals in his 11 international ap-

pearances, including six in

Cameroon's unbeaten qualifi-

cation route to next year's

Cameroon would have trouble

But he warned that

Mboma, 27, is in top form at

favourites to win.

touch and hold-up play is important. You need to keep the ball in international football and the hardest place to do so is in the last third. It took Alan Shearer and Teddy Sheringham time to get that assurance."

Unfortunately for Fowler he does not have that much time. "As I know myself," added Hoddle, "it takes 10 to 15 games to make - or break - an international player and not many get that opportunity. The jump from League football to international is massive. The only way to find out if he can score at international level is by giving him games but I only have six to play with, not 14. If players get an opportunity they must take their chance as Paul Scholes did."

On Fowler's disciplinary problems Hoddle added: "He needs more settling time. All you ask of young players is that they learn from mistakes. It was a silly sending-off a few weeks ago [against Bolton] and it is only him who loses from it.

"I've not spoken to him about that. Sometimes you want to see if players learn themselves. He is young enough to do that but sometimes it needs explaining. He has tremendous ability and I have belief in him."

Since Cameroon are noted for their tackling this could be a good test of Fowier's tem-

With five substitutes allowed out of eight on the bench, Cole should whichever goalkeeper between Nigel Martyn and Ian Walker starts on the bench. The in-form Martyn should start.

In defence, Rio Ferdinand may win his first cap while Andy Hinchcliffe and Phil Neville contest the left-flank position in the absence of Graeme Le Saux.

In midfield Gascoigne seems likely starter alongside Paul Ince, who retains the captaincy. With Shearer, Sheringham, Tony Adams and Stuart Pearce all out that was to be expected but it is, said Hoddle, because of the job

"He has talent," said Hoddle more important than first appears. Fifa are yet to decide whether to use their rankings in deciding seedings for the World Cup draw and a win will keep needs to be a lot subtler, your England highly placed.

bley in 1991.

very good football."



should also get a chance as Glenn Hoddle: There are seven months to go to the World Cup so I can't get too excited, but it is a superb feeling to know you are there'

Photograph: Adam Burder/PA

on detel

Lombardo O

altaly prep

### Hoddle's French campaign begins at Wembley

Even in the euphoric aftermath of England's World Cup qualification in Rome last month, Glenn Hoddle was quick

to stress his job was 'only half-done'. With England playing Cameroon at The performance is the main Wembley today, the but the result may be England coach spoke to our Football

Correspondent, Glenn Moore, about his plans for the next seven

Mboma expects tough task This is the job that drove Don Revie to the desert, turned Patrick Mboma, the Cameroon having lost in the 1990 World Bobby Robson grey and had Graham Taylor waking up at Cup quarter-finals and at Wemnight with his pyjamas drenched in sweat. Even Terry Mboma, who plays his club football in Japan, said: "We are Venables was drowned under a tide of litigation, personal 11 players against 11 players so we will try to win. But I think it's criticism and Football Associ-

ation whispers. 70:30 for England. The English After 18 months of being national team is very strong. The England coach, Glenn Hoddle last time I saw them was against Italy recently and they played ought, at least, to be nervous or defensive with the press and showing a greying or receding The Cameroon coach, Jean Manga, has brought what is virbarnet. Not a bit of it, he is all tually a full-strength squad to smiles and jokes and, close up, and whether it starts to change in recording their first win over England, including several play- still looks young enough to on match day - or even when

training pitch at Bisham Abbey this week he still seems good enough to do so as well.

Hoddle is getting used to confounding expectation. He was seen as too young and too soft when he was appointed last year. Not a bit of it, the 40-yearold has made a virtue of his relative youth - from David current players quote Hoddle here and there is a lot of talent. as their idol - and he has a steely sense of purpose.

has to plan their campaign in France next summer beginning with today's friendly with Cameroon. It is a mission he is clearly relishing for it requires assessment of his players' talent

and their temperament. "I need to know which players have the right temperament to play at this level," he said as we sat under the portraits of Elizabethan nobles in Bisham's Warwick Room yesterday.

"It is being able to play on the big occasions like Rome, they don't come much bigger than then. It is what you can see of a player in the week and how England at the third attempt, ers based with Enropean teams, play. Watching him on the he goes down the tunnel on to

the pitch. They are the things you need to be aware of and are looking for all the time, you know players can handle that

they have the temperament. "You can all the talent in the world but ... " He gestures outside, past the damp tennis courts and the russet-leaved trees to the practice pitch. "I There is not much to choose between certain players, but it is Having steered England to the ones who can take that on I can get away with two." the World Cup finals for the to the pitch at Premiership first time in eight years he now level, European level, and, the ultimate stage, international

level. The bigger the game, the more you get to know about your players." Hoddle has six matches to determine his 22-man World Cup sauad. Cameroon are first. Sweden and Portugal are among possible future opponents along

with, depending on next month's draw, Colombia, another African side and, perhaps, a weaker team for the final match. "It is no good just having

different styles of opposition. you need good opposition," he said. "It is a juggling act between having the continuity of winning matches with balanced teams and being able to give other players chances as you can lose a key player at any time.

"Then there are the mechanics of planning a squad, getting both the right mix of players and of personalities.

"Say I lose Paul Scholes and Teddy Sheringham, not out-and-out goalscorers but people who score goals. Then I might think I need three 'goalscorer' types like Alan there are other options, like Paul and Teddy, I might think

Then there is the group interaction. "I know from two World Cups and two European Championships as a player that that is one of the most important aspects.

"Things go wrong sometimes and it is because of boredom and being in each others' pockets for six weeks. It is human nature.

"There is not much freedom when you are in training and in a camp situation. It is very important how we deal with that, we have to consider the mentality of our players. What is right for Germany and Brazil is not right for ours.

"In a borderline case I might go for the person with the healthier temperament around

the camp. "There comes a time when it goes flat. It did in Le Tournoi and it was exactly when I expected it to. It will happen in the World Cup preparation so you have to think about it. There might be periods when

I don't have everyone together for a long time. "I still got to look at med-Wright and Andy Cole. But if ily situation. In Colorado [before the 1986 World Cup] we had a week with the wives out but the distance is different this time around. France is just an

bour and a half away and there

are different options." Once the tournament starts the hope is that momentum will provide the lift. "With Le Tournoi it went flat before we played Brazil but we had already won the tournament so it was different to going into a

keep it boiling." As part of the long-term bonding exercise. Hoddle, his staff and the squad went out on Tuesday for a meal. Wine was allowed and a good time had by all accounts, "It was a way of saying well done for qualifying." Hoddle explained. "Les Ferdinand came and Alan

semi-final. That's enough to

problems with the distance and their rehabilitation. "We went to an Italian

restaurant - well, we had to really - and it was an important occasion. It was the right time for it and the players appreciated it." Such a mood seemed a dis-

ical side, take on advice, but we tant prospect when England lost insisted Hoddle, "I always felt we could win the group, even after we lost at home to Italy.

"I needed time to get ideas across. You need time to work with your players and progress as a team. In this game things are looked at instantly. It has taken me 18 months to do with England what you would do in six weeks pre-season and four or five games at club level.

"We are progressing and if we continue to do so there is a quarter-final or, please God, a great opportunity for us. There are seven months to go so I can't get too excited, but it is a superb feeling to know you are there, that you have this momentum to grow. But we don't want too much too soon.

"There is a lot of planning that's been done and a lot of preparation to do. We now have to win matches on the way while doing things with the Shearer and Stuart Pearce team. It is a different challenge could have but they had to qualifying."

### The goalscorer's art: why the elaborate choreograpy is not always a cause for celebration



**OLIVIA** BLAIR TO APPLAUD AFTER A GOAL IS SCORED

Highbury witnessed five great goals last Sunday, but the manner in which they were celebrated has rather taken the gloss off at least three of

First, Patrick Vieira injured himself celebrating Arsenal's second; then Teddy Sheringham kissed his badge after netting his brace and was reported to the police by an irate Arsenal fan who deemed the gesture to be "provocative".

Vieira was unfortunate, Sheringham just unwise, since Highbury is a ground where he will always be persona non grata. He had been incessantly goaded by the Arsenal fans for being a Spurs old boy, although his gesture - aimed at showing where his loyalties now lie - was hardly likely to placate the boo-boys.

In fact, Spurs fans have

his roots. At any rate, the objection was rich coming from a fan of the club which pays lan Wright's wages.

Arsenal's striker honed his shooting skills at Selhurst Park but became the most unpopular man in SE25 when be kissed his Arsenal badge on his return to his old stamping ground. Talk about biting the hand that fed you.

That, however, is just one of the celebrations in Wright's repertoire, so much so that there was (almost) as much intrigue over how he would celebrate breaking Cliff Bastin's record as when he would break it. In the event, even the FA who issued a circular asking players to keep their shirts on topless to celebrate scoring in his first Merseyside derby - Just Done It". There have been endless

variations on this theme -Fowler went back-to-front. Ravanelli went headless - and on goal celebrations as a whole. And while the previous two

decades had given us Mick Channon's windmill and Hugo Sanchez's backflip (later to be championed by Peter Beagrie), it was Roger Milla's wiggle of the hips at the corner flag Argentina in Italia 90 that really started the rot.

Some might argue that extravagant celebrations are all part of the show formerly known as football - OK if you like that sort of thing. I can live with Asprilla's cartwheel, and after Duncan Ferguson went even Collymore's gun-toting once) almost every week, then (since it's rarely seen these days) but I can't take any In fact, Spurs fans have his first Merseyside derby - ways) out I can the series and the series of a contribution of a c

to/Romario cradling scene (as witnessed at Darlington last

You'd have thought Chelsea might have toned it down a little. After all, they were already missing their Nigerian defender Celestine Babayaro (injured celebrating a pre-season goal) when Frank Sinclair was fined for doing a Sammy Nelson on scoring earlier this season. On the conafter Cameroon's victory over trary, their latest showpiece involves kissing the scorer's boots, although to he fair if you're Frank Lebocuf and hardly ever score then you're going to make a song and

dance out of doing so. If you're Marco Negri, however, and you score (at least it's nothing to write home about. Which might explain

ham appears to have forgotten shirt with the inscription: "179 or variations on the Bebein stark contrast to the man Rangers scored against Celtic We're becoming like robots whose goalscoring mantle he's inherited at Ibrox.

Ally McCoist's goal celebrations usually involve nothing more elaborate than n wide smile and open arms in the manner of most classic strikers - Dalglish, Shearer, Lincker, Rush and Gerd Müller spring immediately to mind - whose celebrations are as instinctive as the strike itself. That was certainly true of Denis Law's characteristic one-armed, pointed salute. (The only goal Law didn't celcbrate in this way was the back-heel that relegated his old club Manchester United in

But in miligation of over-thetop celchrations you could comthey make people do strange things. Andy Goram recalls

once (luckily the policeman was wearing blue and white ribbons); while the former Dundee

United keeper Alan Main slid towards his fans so flamboyantly after a goal in a Dundee derby that he was fined for causing a breach of the peace. The celebration bandwagon has gathered such pace of late (Barnet's prolific striker Sean Devine apparently has a different celebration for every goal he scores, so his imagina-

tion must be fertile) that it's casy to forget referees are meant to book over-zealous players. In theory the FA claim celebrations are OK "as long as they're kept on the pitch", and in practice referces aren't keen on the directive. The Scottish pare goals to full moons in that ref Jim McGilvray even resigned last season, saying: "Having to book Gazza for cel-

with a list of instructions." It was, of course, Gazza who enraged one half of Glasgow with his flute-playing mime after his first Old Firm goal, and Gazza, too, who stagemanaged the infamous dentist's chair celebration after scoring against Scotland in Euro 96. Personally, however, Stuart Pearce's celebration after his penalty against Spain will linger longer in my mind. Like Marco Tardelli's unforgettable celebration of his strike in the 1982 World Cup final, it was spontaneous rather than scripted.

In fact, the only scripted celebration I rate was the dive with which Jürgen Klinsmann announced his arrival in English football. Ironically, he was asked to perform it by Charmore right to feel aggrieved at turned a blind eye to Wright more of Cuesca's suggestion of the ease with which Shering-baring his chest to reveal a T-ductions or Aylesbury's ducks expressionless when he scores, nearby policeman when Thistic was the last straw. better advice last Sunday.

WORLD CUP PLAY-OFFS

### Irish determined to keep dream alive

As the Republic of Ireland prepare for tonight's World Cup play-off second leg, Andrew Longmore, in Brussels, finds Mick McCarthy playing all the psychological tricks available to an international manager

A potent blend of spirit, imagination, optimism, history and downright fautasy will propel Ireland towards qualification for their third successive World Cup finals here tonight.

The mix has worked before and 10,000 Irishmen in the King Baudouin Stadium - and a 1,000 distant bars beside - will believe passionately that it will do so again, despite the evidence of the first leg in Dublin which ended 1-1, but could have spelled the end of Ireland's French dream so soundly were they outclassed by a robust Belgian side.

Managers have to show confidence at these times and Mick McCarthy, Barnsley-born and bred, has summoned much of his coal-miner's belligerence to transform the mood in the Irish

"I've looked at the video of that first game and not seen anything to worry me," McCarthy said yesterday. "We weren't significantly outplayed."

Deep down, McCarthy knows that to be blarney and doubtless much of his psychological preparation has been based on a slogan borrowed from New Labour that things an only get better.

"To be honest, I'm not really interested in what went wrong last time." he said. "We've game of his young life with a dealt with all that. I am more brief to subdue Luc Nilis, who

interested in what we can do followed up his spectacular right this time."

equaliser in Dublin with the first

of PSV's two goals against New-

castle in the Champions'

League. "I hope it's third time

unlucky for him," Shay Given,

the beaten goalkeeper both

the injury worries have been

handed over to Georges

Leekens, the jovial Belgian

manager. Marc Wilmots, so

influential in Bolgium's mid-

field, has failed a fitness test on

a hamstring; Eric van Meir

and Nico van Kerckhoven have

joined Lorenzo Staelens and

The Brazilian-born Fiorenti-

na striker Luis Oliveira returns

from suspension to partner

Nilis up front and the Irish are

not alone in their bewilderment

at the omission from the squad

of the temperamental but

talented Gilles de Bilde, Nilis's

out shows how many attacking

options they have." McCarthy

said. The young Bruges pair of

Gert Claessens and Eric De-

flander come into a team show-

ing five changes from Dublin.

every World Cup finals since

1978 but statistics support the

cliché that the game will be very

tight. In 13 meetings dating

back to 1928, each side has won

four, lost four and drawn five,

conceding and scoring 23 goals

apiece. Something will have to

give tonight or it will be golden

goal, penalties and Irish prayers

all round.

Belgium have qualified for

"The fact they can leave him

striking partner at PSV.

Enzo Scifo on the sidelines.

With Houghton passed fit,

times, said.

Unlike his predecessor, Jack Charlton, who would name his team several days before kickoff in the hope that his opponents would be tempted into some unnecessary tactical tinkering, McCarthy has been playing selectorial cat-andmouse

As the best Irish displays in qualifying have come overseas, the key to his thinking could be found in the side who performed so creditably, but without reward, in Romania. With five in midfield - Roy Keane, Andy Townsend, Ray Houghton,



McCarthy: Playing cat-andmouse with selection

Gary Kelly and Mark Kennedy - and David Connolly a lone striker, the Irish came close to perfecting the counter-attacking style preached so strongly by Mc-Carthy since his first day in charge.

Keene is missing through injury and so is Denis Irwin, scorer of Ireland's early goal in all TOURIC.

SELGIBLE De Wilde (Sporting Lisbon): De-Flander (Brugss). De Bouck (Antierischt), Verstroeten (Germinel Elesen), Vidovic (Acuseron), Verheyen, Bruges), Ven der Eist (Bruges), Claessens (Bruges), Boffin (Metz), Oliveira (Florentina), Nille (PSV).

REPUBLIC OF IRIB. AND: Given (Newcasde); G Kelly (Leeds), Curraingham (Windsdom), Harts (Leads), Kanna (Backburt), Carley (De-by), Houghton (Reading), Toensend (Mid-Dublin. But Jeff Kenna is a ready-made replacement at fullback and Lee Carsley, one of a number of new recruits, has been pitched into the biggest

### ...And statistics

### Swindon defy the odds

The contrast at the top of the First Division could hardly be greater. While four of the top five are clubs which can justifiably claim to have genuine Premiership potential, the leaders are humble Swindon Town, who boast an average home gate of less than 9,000.

Such is the quality of the First Division this season that although Swindon's four immediate pursuers are all well-supported teams - Nottingham Forest (average gate 18,730), West Bromwich Albion (16,706), Sheffield United (18,448) and Middlesbrough (29,939) - not even they have the biggest following in the division.

The two best-supported clubs are in fact in the bottom half of the table: Sunderland, with an average gate of 30,033, lie 12th, while Manchester

City (26,544) are only two places off the bottom.

Glenn Hoddle led Swindon to promotion into the Premiership five seasons ago - Hoddle then left to join Chelsea and his former charges lasted only one year in the top flight under John Gorman, his successor - but the Wiltshire club's achievement this season under Steve McMahon would surely be even greater if they won promotion.

At least half the clubs in this year's First Division could make a strong case for their own Premiership potential. Gates are booming, yet only six clubs are drawing smaller attendances than Swindon, whose gates are averaging less than in Hoddle's promotion year (10,715). In their Premiership

year Swindon's gates rose to an average of 15,300.

The make-up of the First Division changed markedly with this summer's promotion and relegation. While three teams with substantial support dropped out of the Premiership - Nottingham Forest, Sunderland and Middiesbrough - they were replaced by Bolton, Barnsley and Crystal Palace, clubs with only moderate support. However, the First Division inevitably lags well behind the Premiership in

pulling power. The average gate in the Premiership is 28,000 and only six First Division clubs have grounds which can accommodate crowds of that size: Sunderland, Manchester City, Nottingham Forest, Middlesbrough, Sheffield United and Wolves.

First Division attendances 1997-98

•	·	Current .	Сараспу	Percentage		
	بخت	average		of capacity		
	- · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	crowd				
	Sunderland	30,033	42,000	.71.5 · · ·		
•	Middlesbrough '	29,939	30,500	98.2		``. <u>.</u> {
	Manchester City	26,544	31,458	84.4		
	Wolves	22,468	28,525	78.8		
	Notim Forest	18,730	30,602	61.2		Chris Hay's goals
٠	Sheffield United	18,448	30,370	60.7-7-7		have helped take
,	Birmingham	17,011	25,812	65.9		
	WBA	16,706	25,296	66.0		Swinden to the top of
	Stoke	15,704	24,054	653		the First Division
74	Bradioni -	15.385	18,018	85.4		<i>[</i> -]
	Norwich	#4.285	21,994	55.5	Control of the second	ا کر ہے ا
				30.0		
-4.5	OPR Charton	18,962	19148	72.9 74.1		· ·
	CHAHIOII	11,850	16,000 22,675	49.7		A State of the sta
٠,٠	<b>Ipswicht</b>	11,265	27,013 10,000	49.7		
ب ۲	Huddersfield	10372	19.600	55.5 /		-6.00
• · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	Portsmouth.	9,598	18,500	,50,6	44	
, a	Reading	904	15,000	60.3	4 3 5 6 5 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1	
٠, ت	Swindon	<b>48,998</b> ≈ ∴ ⊹	15,728	57.2		7
7	Stockoort	7,901 5	12,086	65.4		
4.0	Datore	7.746	9,572	80.9	医人名英西 注	
	Port Valle	7,547	22.356	33.8 7		
		7.065	16 789	42.1		
J. 6	Bury Crewe	5.995	#1,841	42.1 50.6		· · · - }
. معنی	Crewe	5.128	6,000	85.5		
		A A STATE OF THE S		1 44 P. V.		A }
		والممر مختر للمحيي	- 1 mg/	يان المراجع ا المراجع المراجع المراج		
	Statistics: Brian Sears	(a)	Section 1			
<u> </u>			-	4		
- 1		等。有意以				r zewył
· · · ·						★ 型流
				<b>7</b>	100	Addition of the last of the la
					10 1 2 4 1	(
- 2	4	NY TO PETER		<i>I</i> .		
		A 30 (4)		· A		
2.4				4		
-			1	Ť		
2.4	1	The second of	<b>→</b> (	A Pro		A STATE OF THE PARTY OF THE PAR
₹7		المايد دورالاضو	-44	/	4	

Sutton will be staying, say Blackburn

### Lombardo out for a month as Italy prepare for Russia

Crystal Palace could be without Attilio Lombardo for up to a month after he picked up a thigh muscle injury in training with Italy yesterday.

The 31-year-old former Juventus player will definitely miss the second leg of his country's World Cup qualifying playoff against Russia in Naples this evening after sustaining the injury trying to back-heel the

Lombardo, keen to impress the Italy coach Cesare Maldini, tried an elegant flick at the San Paolo stadium - and sprained the muscles in his right thigh.

Maldini said: "We're all disappointed for Lombardo, but he was trying to do something which perhaps wasn't really hím. The Chelsea striker, Gian-

franco Zola, will be kept guessing over whether he will return to Maidini's starting line-up after he made way for Fabrizio Ravanelli in the first leg, which ended in a 1-1 draw in Moscow on October 29.

It is likely to be a straight choice between Zola and the former Middlesbrough striker to accompany Pierluigi Casiraghi in attack, with Maldini saying: "The difference would

only be in having that extra bit of power (with Ravanelli). while Zola is that bit more inventive."

World Cup

15 teams qualify (France qualify as

Denmark, England, Norway, Austria, Soutiand, Butgarta, Spain, Nether-tends, Romania and Germany have

Four more teams will quality after today's play-off second legs: Russia or haly Republic of Ireland or Belgium, Croatia or Ukraine and Hungary or Yugoslavia.

Five teams qualify (Brazil qualify as

Argentina, Paraguay and Colombia

have already qualified; Chile or Peru will fill the tourth place.

will fill the fourth peace.

Argentina (O) 5 8 5 2 22 12 29

Perreguay (O) 5 8 5 2 22 12 29

Perreguay (O) 5 8 3 4 22 14 27

Colombia (O) 5 8 3 4 5 29 18 22

Perroguay (O) 5 8 4 5 29 18 22

Perroguay (O) 5 8 6 4 5 18 20 22

Ecuador 6 6 3 6 18 16 17

Bolivie 5 4 5 6 18 17

Uruguay 5 5 3 7 13 18 18

Venezuelle 8 0 3 18 4 3

update

already qualified.

South America

Europe

Italy would reach the finals in France next year with a goalless draw thanks to their away goal scored by the now-injured Christian Vieri in Moscow.

Maldini, however, has come under increasing pressure to produce a performance of flair that will send Italy, who have only failed to qualify for the finals once before, in 1958, to the



Cesare Maldini: A 0-0 draw will see his team to France

World Cup with some style. As if to demonstrate how important Maldini's task is to Italians, around 8,000 of them turned up at the San Paolo stadium in Naples to watch yesterday's final training session before the match.

The excitement of the occasion was too much for one fan, who ran on to the pitch and tackled a bewildered Roberto

Remaining flotures: Toraumove: Argen-tina v Cotombia; Chile v Botivis; Peru v Paraguay, Uruguay v Ecuados.

Menoco and the United States have already qualified; Jernaica or El Sal-vador will fill the third place.

P W D L F A Pts

Mexico (C) 9 4 5 0 23 7 17

USA (C) 9 3 5 1 13 7 14

Jernarda 9 3 4 2 7 12 13

El Salvador 9 2 4 3 9 12 10

Costa Fich 9 2 3 4 10 11 9

Conta Fich 9 1 3 5 4 17 8

Viedco: Costa Rica v Canada: Unit-alas v El Salvador.

Nigerie, Morocco, Tunisia, South Africa and Cameroon have qualified.

Four teams quality
Saudi Arabia and South Korea
have qualified, iran meet Japan in
a play-off in Johor Bahru, Malaysia,
tomorrow. The winners of play-off
will qualify for the finals, the losers
will play Australia over two legs on
22 and 23 November for the last
place at the finals.

Concacaf Three teams quality

Africa :

Five teams quality

Asia/Oceania

Four teams qualify

Di Matteo before being dragged away by stewards.

The Chelsea midfielder Di Matteo was unperturbed and is likely to keep his place in the team after an impressive performance in Moscow.

Supporters in Naples have a reputation for being among the most fanatical in Italy - especially when the Azzurri are in town. Tickets for the game sold out within three hours and there is expected to be a

capacity 73,000-strong crowd. The Italians usually respond to the warmth of the Neapolitan support. They have lost just three of their 20 matches played in the city.

"With a 0-0 draw we're on the train to France," said Maldini. He added: "I understand the other argument, and I respect it, but I think and reason with my head.

"What happens next for me is of little interest to me - what I want is to stay in good health and to enjoy my family, while all the time boning to win matches. And that's all. Just as it's always been."

The former Everton winger Andrei Kanchelskis is set to miss out for Russia because of an injury picked up in the first But Maldini added: "From

what I understand, they too are going to play to score goals, and in place of Kanchelskis they might play someone who has scored a few more goals than him - Igor Simutenkov."

#### lems by taking the Bolivian in-Blackburn Rovers insisted ves-

terday they will not have to sell to buy. Rovers manager Roy Hodgson has inquired about Lazio's Pierluigi Casiraghi, but the Serie A side want to keep the Italian international, and Blackburn said they will not have to sell Chris Sutton to finance bids for other players, despite reports linking the striker with a move to Arsenal.

"Any inference that the club has to sell players in order to enter the market as buyers couldn't be further from the truth." the Blackburn chief executive, John Williams, said. Hodgson added that he has had no contact with

Arsenal about Sutton.

Bryan Robson is hoping to solve his own goalscoring prob-

ternational, Jaime Moreno, back to Teesside.

The Middlesbrough manager lost out to Crystal Palace for the Juventus striker Michele Padovano earlier this week, and Robson is trying to re-sign Moreno, currently playing for Washington in the United States.

Palace are looking to move up in the world and match the Premiership's élite following yesterday's decision of the chairman, Ron Noades, to sell his stake in the club. Businessman Mark Goldberg, who paid a reported £250,000 to become a non-executive director in August, is to buy 10 per cent of Noades's shares for £3m, and he has

until February to decide whether

to take up an option to buy a further 75 per cent share. "This deal will secure a strong

financial future for Crystal Palace and directly fund the recent signing of Michele Padovano," Noades said. Goldberg, managing director

of a computer services group, would continue to work full-time if the deal went through, while Noades would continue in his current role at Palace, where he has been for nearly 17 years.

The Premier League confirmed yesterday that they have signed a £100m deal for overseas television rights to Premiership games. The three-year deal with the International Management Group and Canal+ television company will begin in 1998-99,

John Barnwell urged Football League clubs yesterday to follow the Premiership's code of conduct and save themselves a fortune in legal fees.

Barnwell, the chief executive of the League Managers' Association, said he was concerned by the number of outstanding compensation cases involving sacked managers. "Around £2m has gone out of the game to solicitors in the last 18 months," he said, "which is daft."

The former Wolves manager was concerned that the League did not have compensation guidelines similar to those laid down by the Premiership, which force the dismissed manager and his former club to settle the contract within 28 days.

NATIONWIDE LEAGUE PREVIEW

#### City hope to turn the tide with Russell

Frank Clark, the Manchester City manager, is hoping that his new signing, Craig Russell, can help turn around his side's poor start to the season.

The 23-year old striker, signed in a £1m deal from Sunderland that saw Nicky Summerbee go in the other direction, should go straight into Clark's team, who travel to Sheffield United today.

City are two places from the foot of the First Division and were beaten 1-0 at home last week by the bottom side. Huddersfield, but Russell is confident about the future under Clark.

"I have complete faith in Frank - he is a top-quality manager," Russell said. "I'm just desperate to play football and this club are not going to be down the bottom of the table

for long." Sheffield United, fourth in the First Division but only five points behind the leaders Swindon with three games in hand, will play Simon Tracey in goal in place of Alan Kelly, who is on international duty with the Republic of Ireland in Belgium.

Swindon travel to Stockport with a three-point cushion at the top of the table. They have been reinforced by Brian Borrows, signed from Coventry on a free transfer after a successful two-month loan spell. Stockport are without their Canadian, Martin Nash, who is on international duty.

Nottingham Forest play at home to Birmingham, who will play Tony Cottee for the first time since the former West Ham striker joined on loan from Leicester. The Birmingham defender Darren Wassall will miss the game with his for-

mer club due to suspension. The Middlesbrough manager, Bryan Robson, yesterday asked the England coach, Glenn Hoddle, to release Paul Merson for today's game at Norwich if he is not involved against Cameroon. Robson is tionals for the visit to Carrow Road, with Andy Townsend captaining Ireland in Belgium and Anthony Ormerod and Andrew Campbell with the England Under-18 squad playing Russia at Crewe last night.

Ipswich will give a debut to the former Manchester United youth team striker David Johnson at Wolves after signing the 21-year-old from Bury in a £1m deal which saw the centreback Chris Swailes and £800,000 go to Gigg Lane.

Johnson will not have an easy debut at Molineux, despite having scored there for Bury earlier in the season. Mark McGhee's team are unbeaten at home so far this season and will be boosted by the return of the midfielders Simon Osborn and Michael Gilkes after injuries,

Queen's Park Rangers' caretaker manager, John Hollins, takes charge for the first time since the departure of Stewart Houston. Karl Ready, Nigel Quashie and Jurgen Sommer all miss the home game against Stoke because of international duty, while Kevin Gallen has a slight hamstring worry. John McGinlav makes his

home debut for Bradford against Tranmere, while the Bradford manager, Chris Kamara, expects Peter Beagrie (calf strain). Wayne Jacobs (bruised foot) and Eddie Youds (groin strain) to be fit. The Tranmere player-manager, John Aldridge, could deputise for his Republic of Ireland striker, David Kelly. -Nick Harris

A federation statement

blamed the incident on the

### SCOTTISH FOOTBALL Old Firm minds on the task in hand

Rangers and Celtic meet in the second leg of the Old Firm double header next Wednesday, but both are anxious to concentrate on today's opponents. Rangers travel to Aberdeen, while Celtic face Motherwell at Parkhead.

The precarious position of both struggling clubs suggests straightforward victories for the Old Firm sides, but neither Walter Smith nor Wim Jansen's players want to be compla-

Celtic midfielder Andreas Thom has said that the overall standard of this season's Premier Division is the highest he can remember and he includes bottom club Motherwell in that analysis. Alex McLeish's side have lost out twice to Celtic already this campaign, but on each occasion it was only by the odd goal, with Motherwell leading 2-1 at Fir Park before a late

Bhoys' revival. Thom said: "All our concentration at the moment is towards facing Motherwell tomorrow, only after that can we talk about Rangers again."

against Celtic courtesy of Richard Gough's strike at Ibrox last week, the same caution is echoed by the Rangers defender Joachim Bjorklund. He said: "First there is an important trip to Aberdeen and we must not look any further forward than that."

Despite coming out on top

Aberdeen will be managed for the first and perhaps last time by the former Tottenham manager Keith Burkinshaw. Burkinshaw, the director of football, has stepped in on a bernian meet at East End Park.

Anken, sacked on Monday after his side had recorded just two wins from 12 games this season. Elsewhere, leaders Hearts

find a replacement for Roy

will bid to continue their fine run of form against St Johnstone at Tynecastle where title talk is firmly discouraged by the manager Jim Jefferies. Dundee United will aim for a fifth consecutive league win when they face Kilmarnock at Rugby Park, while Dunfermline and Hi-

### Football stadiums become battle grounds in Argentina while drugs are the problem in Ukraine



METCALF

#### ARGENTINA

try on the footballing map, recent footballing violence in hardened locals.

pended last weekend while the first leg of the Connebol previous Thursday ended with a pitched battle between players from a local side, Lanus, and the visiting Brazilians from Atletico Mineiro. Lanus lost 4-1 at home to

Atletico in the equivalent of

Never the most peaceful coun-Argentina has shocked even the ly all the players on the field.

Two matches were sus-Cup final in Buenos Aires the

captain, Oscar Ruggeri of Lanus, and Atletico's Jorginho

quickly spread to involve nearplus both team's benches. Some fans began punching

an Atletico player through the fence around the pitch when he. became trapped against it. Atletico's coach, Leão, a former Brazilian international goalkeeper, returned home with a broken jaw - in which he had 14 screws inserted in an operation this week

Leão, under doctor's orders called off the game.

Europe's Uefa Cup. A fight be- to keep his face out of the sun, tween the former Argentina resumed command of the Atletico team on Wednesday wearing a Panama hat and prospect on 26 November.

Last Saturday Boca Juniors policemen were injured. match away to Rosario Central was abandoned in the 68th minute as missiles rained down on to the pitch. Boca were leading 3-0 when the referee, Javier Castrilli, who described the fans' behaviour as "attempted murder" in his match report,

The following day a Second Thursday for failing a drugs test Division derby in the city of after the first leg. Cordoba was ahandoned when fans, using an advertising hoarhiding under the shade of a ding as a bridge to cross the huge umbrella. An interesting most around the pitch, invadsecond leg against Lanus is in ed the field. A hundred people were arrested and 12

> Ukraine's football federation. acting swiftly ahead of today's World Cup play-off against Croatia, barred the midfielder Sergei Nahornyak from all

chief doctor of Nayornyak's club side, Dnipro Dnipropetrovsk, and gave him a lifetime ban from the Ukrainian League.

Nahornyak failed a routine test for the masking agent

Bromantan after Ukraine lost 2-0 in Zagreb on 29 October. He had already been dropped from the squad for the return game in Kiev. It was the first positive test in a World Cup game since Diego Maradona's football for two years on at USA '94.

Saturday 15 November 1997 ■

### Woodward looking for new beginnings and quick fixes

The last three England-Australia matches played in this country were all watershed affairs for one side or the other.

Chris Hewett says today's unpredictable contest between two teams in the early stages of evolution could prove equally significant as the 1999 World Cup inches ever closer.

Contrary to popular belief, Clive Woodward has not broken new ground by aiming a twofingered salute at the safety-first brigade and sending an entire creche-load of comparative toddlers into the fire and fury of a Twickenham Test against the Wallabies. Dick Greenwood did something similar in 1984 - Nigel Melville, Stuart Barnes, Gareth Chilcott and Nigel Redman were among those capped for the first time that day - and the experiment backfired with such violence that England's youth policy disappeared without trace.

Until, that is, 1988, when Geoff Cooke played the boldest of hands. The gambler hit the jackpot, England won and the Will Carling era was born. As a direct response to that setback, the Wallabies gave their old guard a one-way ticket to the scrapheap, replaced them with a bunch of kids and went on to beat England in the 1991 World Cup Final.

It could go either way this afternoon and therein lies the fascination. An English victory would lend the new coach an air

No. 3457. Saturday 15 November

Friday's solution

of authority to go alongside the Roger Uttley is reinventing himenergy, enterprise and enthusiasm he brought to the job. Defeat by a Wallaby side some way short of full throttle would have the opposite effect, especially with the All Blacks and the Springboks lurking around the next couple of corners.

"Look, this isn't a World Cup final," said the coach this week. "Had it been, I might have picked a different side. I can't honestly say that I'd have picked the same line-up had we been playing New Zealand.

I want to win this game and I'm as passionate in my desire as any of the players but if we don't win I'm not going to lose a night's sleep. Whatever happens, we'll learn from the experience. It's the first step on the road to 1999. not the be-all and end-all."

Woodward can rest easy in the knowledge that by naming five debutants in a line-up every bit as radical as those of '84 and

(Northampton), I7 A Healey (Leicesse, 18 G Rowntree (Leicesser), 19 R Cockeriff (Leicesser), 20 D Grewcock (Leicester), 21 N Back (Leicester) Reference

**ENGLAND v AUSTRALIA** 

Bach 10 Effatie

THE INDEPENDENT CROSSWORD

G Gregan

self as an ultra-modern baby boomer, the grizzled veteran of England's 1980 Grand Slam side and assistant coach of Carling's massively experienced and deeply conservative team of the fully behind the new idealism.

"When we won the Slam, we had a pack containing umpteen England captains and more caps than anyone could be both-ered to count," he said. "But the frustrating thing was that we were only brought together in the twilight of our careers. Within a year or two, the whole side had fallen apart through injury and retirement. We'd actually been around throughout the 1970s, but no one had put us all on the field at the same time. The idea behind this side is to get the form players together

early and let them grow." The only trouble with playing the long game is that the '88, he has caught the mood of · short game has a nasty habit of · the times. Even the manager getting in the way. It is perfectly

Substitutes: 16 M Hardy (NSW), 17 S G Payne (NSW), 18 A Heath (NSW), 19 M Caputo (ACT), 28 M Cockbain (Queensland), 21 D Wilson

ACROSS

in D? (6) Stupid baronet's invested in

support to person who lies

will gain access to Montana administration (10)

Yorkshire Water (6)

Again directors will giv

Police force is getting in

drink - that's plenty (5)

11 A return of service from a great distance (4)
12 A long time before people

13 More usual sort of under-

Float airily on high (5)

Top of packing-case showing cap size, in a word? (7) Napoleon's decoration a

fresco painter left unfin-

Industrial science would be

involved in most of cologne they processed (10)
23 Rector in bishop's office is

uncomfortably hot and dry

25 Mature writer introduced

by Royal Institution (5) Verification of resources

Salad plant, in Cyprus al-

28 Australian's bait is briefly seen on shelf (6)

statesmen worked out (5,4)

ished at first (8)

graduate (8)

something special, that the likes of Matt Perry, Andy Long, Will Greenwood and Tony Diprose will form the spine of a side capable of mounting a realistic challenge for the Webb Ellis early 1990s has thrown himself Trophy in two years' time. But to keep them together, the selectors need the oxygen of results. Given that the next four matches are against New Zealand (twice), South Africa and France in Paris, a win to-

> day is essential for morale. Fortunately, the Wallabies are in no obvious shape to cuff the English youngsters around the ear and send them off to bed without their supper. Rod Macqueen, the Australian coach, is also feeling his way and although his back division is full of pace and know-how, he has been forced to rebuild his forward pack almost from scratch.

> Macqueen and his squad have spent a thoroughly uncomfortable week on the wrong end of some spiteful Australian tongue-lashings. "Spineless", "gutless" and "soulless" were just some of the adjectives applied to the Wallabies' 18-16 reverse in Argentina last weekend.

Few recent Tests have been quite so difficult to call with any degree of confidence. If Jason Leonard, Martin Johnson and the new captain Lawrence Dallaglio punch their collective weight up front and take the game by the scruff of its neck, the youngsters outside should flourish. If, on the other hand, John Eales inspires his unsung pack by turning in one of his occasional unbelievable performances rather than his usual great one, the Wallabies possess the cutting edge to prevail. It could well go down to the wire.

DOWN

which class can be seen

Box for beer down under

(4) Mariner's fears are un-

founded (8) Out-of-date northern

Appellation given to

line? Mason, perhaps

though not Dixon (5.4)

Before getting involved

in wrestling see man in

Chap from finance de-

partment suggesting shopper may get black eye here? (4,7)

14 Decree whereby one's re-

16 Grandee enraged valiant

20 Unemotional woman called Lettice? (7)

Muscly, awkward, un-

gainly (6) 24 Muck, for instance, is left

everywhere initially (4)

cruited into the artillery

10 Property man? (6.5)

Latvian (8) 18 Runner from Britaon?

charge (7)

town takes time to re-

place municipal leader

to cry? (7)

### From Telford to Hannover and back again: how Tim Henman went in search of a \$100,00 prize



Tim Henman on his way to victory over Jamie Delgado in the quarter-finals at Telford yesterday. He served is aces



week in Shropshire developed into a frantic dash between Britain and Germany. HENMAN'S SCHEDULE

Tim Henman had been expecting to finish a low-

Championships until his phone rang at 11.30 on

Hannover desperately seeking a replacement.

Henman agreed to answer the call and what

An injury to Sergi Bruguera left the organisers

should have been a comparatively quiet end to the

key week in Telford at the National Tennis

of the ATP Tour World Championship in

23.30 Thursday: Henman, staying in the Telford area for the national championships, receives a phone call inviting him to replace Bruguera in Hannover. He will play only one match, against Yevgeny Kafelnikov, but victory would be worth \$100,000 (£60,000) and 80 world ranking points. The ATP will also pay him \$10,000 (£6,000) for taking

Thursday night.

09.30 yesterday: Shortly af-Telford Racquet and Fitness Club, Henman attends a press conference and announces his 11.08: Henman starts his Telford quarter-final against

Jamie Delgado. 12.02: Henman completes a 6-4, 6-2 victory over Delgado, antees him £2,200.

leaves by car for Birmingham airport.

14.00: At his own expense, Herman leaves Birmingham airport on Flight 146 Alpha, a private jet to Hannover. 16.30 (local time): An hour and a half after leaving Birmingham, Henman's jet arrives

at Hannover airport 17.30: Henman arrives at Hall 13 of the Expo 2000 site. venue for the ATP Tour World

Championship. court for a warm-up session with his coach, David Felgate. 19.30: Henman due to play Katelnikov. Then expected to fly back to Birmingham. Today: Henman is likely to start his Telford semi-final against Danny Sapsford just after midday. Victory in to-morrows final would earn him

John Roberts, page 21.

No place lil

April 2011 2011 Sury

The tree is the same to be a



Hannover-bound: Henman climbs into a car for the drive to Birmingham airport

Photographs: Allsport

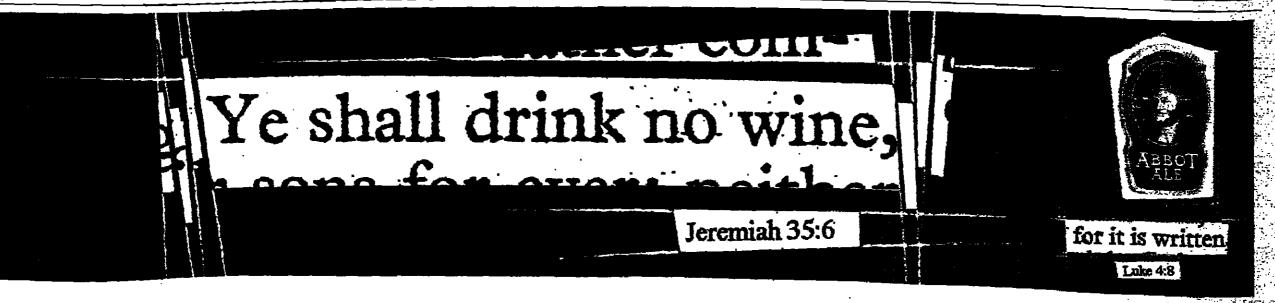
Last Saturday's solution

OPublished by Newspaper Publishing PLC, I Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL, and printed at Mirror Colour Print. St Albans Road, Watford

Samusian 15 November 1997 ारों के व अस्कारमध्य कारों केंद्र रिपर्ट ऐसिय

ELEVEN PAGES OF SPORT BEGIN ON PAGE 16

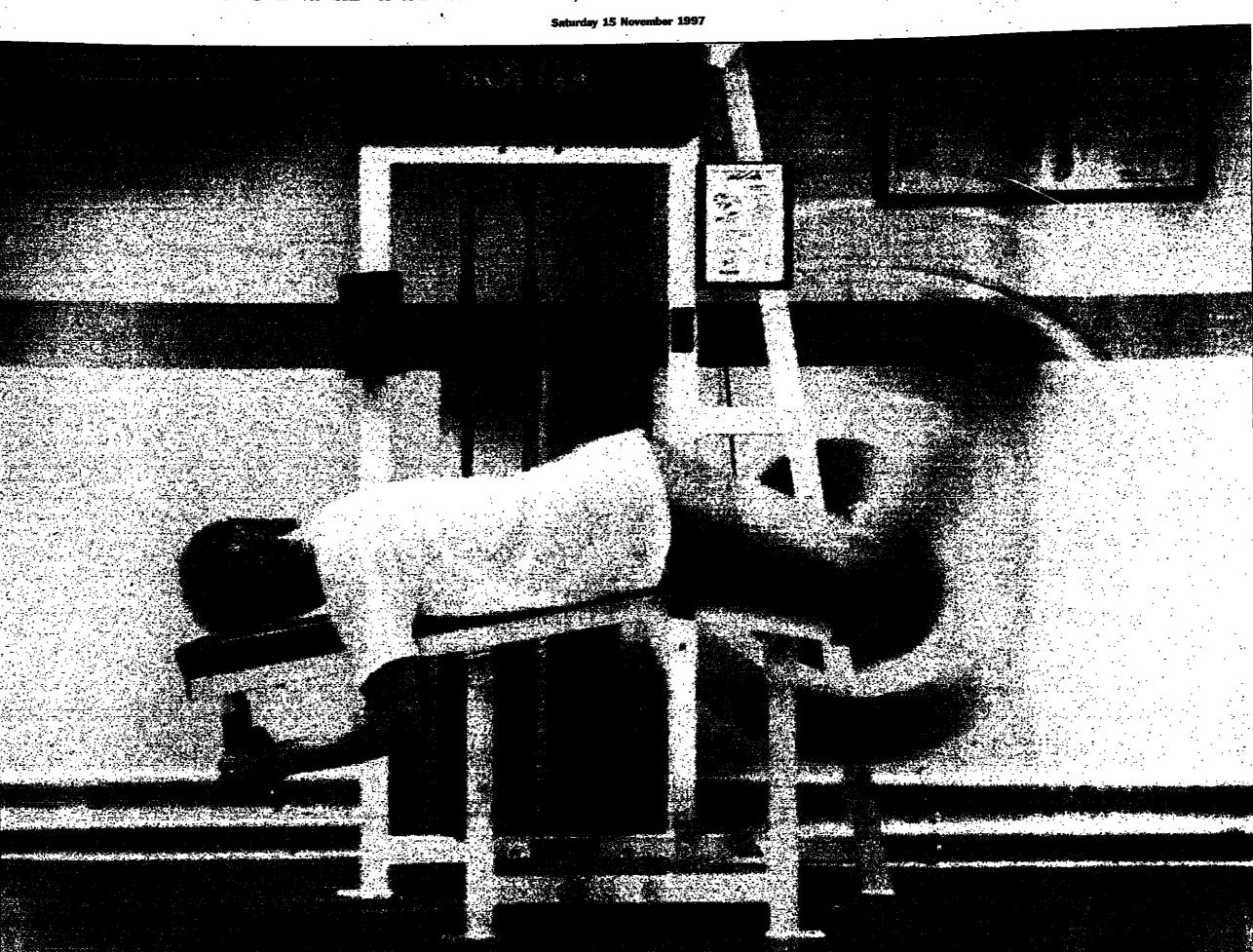
B



PERSONAL FINANCE NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR

# YOUR MONEY

PERSONAL FINANCE, PROPERTY & MOTORING



The developer's money-spinner: buying a flat in an up-market apartment block will often include exclusive use of gyms, swimming pools and steam rooms. But, as many people discover, the running costs can make service charges very heavy. And just how many residents actually make full use of these facilities anyway? See Penny Jackson's report in the Property section starting on Page 9

### No place like home for getting down to work

Working from home is an ideal that many of us, tired of the office rat race, aspire to. Running your own business out of an attic, a handy outbuilding or a spare bedroom can be better than the mind-numbing commute on the 7.25am bus or train. But as Ging Vedrickos discovers, a few individuals take things a bit further.

₽0M

Drize

Seeing 300 people trot through his former bedroom one day did make Steve Wright stop and think: "Oh God, what have I done?" Luckily, it is no longer his bedroom. Wright, a designer, has turned part of his residential Victorian terrace into a shop.

It is possible to walk down his south London street and not notice his house. But you would have to be en route to the opticians to miss the Gaudiesque mosaic path leading to the shop's entrance. Follow the path and it takes you into a shrine devoted to eclectic objects for the more catholic consumer. Wright, whose shop is named after him, sits behind his mirrored counter, amid a riot of funtastic pieces including a life-size golden Buddha, and declares, "I'm sick of minimalism, aren't you?"

Although he considered a high street location, Mr Wright believed a shop inside his home, in SE22, would get more attention. So far he's right. Visitors

than 40 designers and they also get to peep into his workshop, where he designs an array of objects from mirrors to rugs. Spying a rare couple of inches of wall space, his eyes gleam. "I think I've got some hats I could put there." Is he afraid that his modest home could be overrun with curious visitors? "It is a worry but it's worth it."

The door leading to the rest of his house is, however, firmly bolted. "People are nosy and maybe that's why they like coming here," says Mr Wright, who is keen to embrace as diverse a selection of customers as possible: "When you start adapting your home for the public it's hard to know when to stop. I'm planning a temple in the garden now."

If Mr Wright's visitors are as eclectic as the objects they've come to view, Jayne Barrett's are a more defined breed. "You've got to be at least three months pregnant to cross my threshold," she says. She does hire a hall for some active birth classes but mostly teaches at home from a disused diring room now devoted to birth preparation.

Cushions replace chairs and the Encyclopaedia of Pregnancy and Childbirth nestles beside a doll's head poking through a plastic pelvis. Ms Barrett believes sacrificing her personal space is worthwhile as women prefer classes at her home. "They're much more able to relax and they appreciate extras like quilted toilet paper. When they see my. home they like me more."

pour in to marvel at the work of more 20 women humming as they practise breathing and stretching techniques and their only complaint is about parking problems caused by the flow of visitors.

Some neighbours are not so openminded. Steve Isaacson, Lewisham's assistant planning officer, warns that complaints can scupper planning applications. "We've just refused permission to an aromatherapist based in a flat as neighbours were worried both about their communal areas and the massage parlour element."

Fortunately for the faint-hearted, Ms Barrett's house is not overlooked, as the sight of heavily pregnant women in tadasana poses could be startling.

The end results of her classes could well find themselves visiting Heather Benyayer. Her windows, covered in fireworks paintings, divulge her home's use as a Montessori nursery.

"When I started I had no idea how it would grow," Ms Benyayer explains. So why choose to have your home invaded? "I thought it easier not to have overheads. I didn't have the nerve to go straight off and find somewhere, and in my line of business I felt that a lot of people wanted their nursery to be within a home environment."

From starting with just a few items, mostly her own children's toys, she now has masses of equipment, five members of staff and 40 children.

She has made serious adaptations to her home. "From day one the council" had to make sure there were no safety Neighbours are used to the strains of hazards. Now I've expanded upstairs

there's lots more; full fire alarms, emergency lighting, the whole works." Ms Benyayer admits that working from home has affected her long-suffering family. "A lot of partners would probably have walked out," she says. "My life changed overnight with the stress of worrying about things being tidy."

. Home workers have to learn to cope with that disruption and deal with ambiguous feelings about their living, and working, space. Ms Benyayer says: "I lost all interest in interior design and gardening. We had to get rid of a lot of furniture and rip everything out of the garden in case it was poisonous. I didn't see it as a home any more."

As the nursery expanded, living space became tighter. "The living room went first, then the kitchen." With three boys squashed into one bedfoom, pressure mounted. Finally, she says: "For my sanity we decided we either had to move the nursery or move out ourselves and it was easier for us to go. I'm a lot happier now."

Before starting a business at home: · Speak to your lender immediately. If you are using more than 40 per cent of your home for business they may insist on a commercial mortgage, often 2 per cent above standard rates, and you could lose tax relief.

• Talk to your local council. There may be planning implications and you could need a licence for some types of business. • Notify your insurers. There is no standard cover but each case is considered on its own merits.



#### INSIDE

3/JOHN WINDSOR Religious icons

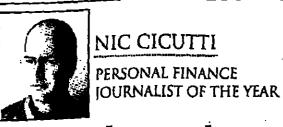
5/JONATHAN 7/JOHN DAVIS The Crash foreseen

CHAPMAN The pensions scandal

11/FIONA BRANDHORST GREEN Paid to live in luxury

12/GAVIN Seeing past the moose

## 2/PERSONAL FINANCE



### A fixed-rate loan still makes sense

the most sensible option for Alliance & Leicester, with no new borrowers and those seeking a remortgage? Or should they opt for discounted mortgages, where the cost of the loan is kept at a set percentage below the prevailing variable rate?

I am drawn into the debate by a claim earlier this week that fixing a mortgage may not be the best choice. The argument is that variable interest rates - the bog-standard mortgage repayment mechanism, have almost reached their peak with Abbey National and Northern Rock's decision this week to raise the cost of their loans to 8.7 per cent. If rates are going to come down again, a fixed mortgage is likely to prove uncompetitive within a short space of time.

It seems to me that there are two key considerations that have driven the longterm rate deals now available. The first is the money market's perception that by handing over control of base rates to the Bank of England, the Chancellor of the Exchequer has increased long-term monetary stability. Secondly, the Government's hope to join the European monetary union (EMU) in due course raises the possibility of future interest rate falls.

What has been the market's reaction to these two possibilities? Actually, longterm interest rates have peak of almost 8.5 per cent just nine months ago, it is now possible to find a five-year fixed-rate mortgage from cent (plus compulsory insuradvice.

Are fixed-rate home loans ances) or 6.25 per cent from insurance requirements.

But if base rates were to drop next year, as many expect, wouldn't that mean even cheaper fixed rates? Perhaps, but if the markets have already factored in this potential movement, not by vast amounts - perhaps 0.5 per cent or so.

And what of EMU? Research by Chase de Vere, a London mortgage broker, shows that even if the UK joins (not until 2002, mind) mortgage costs in Europe do not suggest that convergence of base rates will mean a reduction in home loan rates.

The margin between retail base rates and mortgage rates is already lowest in the UK and Ireland, at about 0.7 per cent. Elsewhere in Europe it is much wider.

What then of discounted rates? One of the better five-year discounts available to first-time buyers is 1.25 per cent from Nationwide, which now charges 8.1 per cent, plus compulsory insurances usually deemed to add 0.25 per cent to the cost of a loan. Borrowers would effectively be paying 7.1 per cent.

For borrowers to benefit from this discount over and above that offered by the A&L fix, rates would have to come down by 0.8 per cent next week and stay below 7.5 per cent for five years.

Is that likely? I don't already come down. From a know. What I do know is that warning people against fixing a mortgage rate, particularly when they need to control their outgoings several years Northern Rock at 5.99 per in advance, is very risky.

MONEY MAKEOVER

## Making sure security runs in the family

Names: David and Kate Watson Ages: 44 and 42 respectively

Occupations: Development manager and data base analyst

Financial Issues: David earns £50,000 a year and has a company car. Kate works part-time for £6,000 a year. They have two sons aged 12 and 10, who attend a state school. The family live in Wiltshire, in a house worth £135,000, with mortgage loans of £92,000, to be repaid by two endowment policies when David reaches 60. They also have a credit card balance of £3,000 and a with-profits endowment policy about to mature for £9,000.

Their financial planning priorities are to ensure family security in the event of David's premature death; to ensure that they are adequately prepared for the cost of the boys' education at university in due course; and to have pension arrangements that will provide them with a good income after retirement when David reaches 60.

They want to know the implications of David taking early retirement and are keen, having recently completed the purchase, extension and renovation of their current home, to start a form of monthly investment to raise capital in the future. They have no current need for any large sums of cash other than for annual holidays. The Adviser: Colin Stenning, a Fellow of the Institute of Financial Planning and a certified financial planner, is managing director of Harvey Parker Stenning, 47 Cheap Street, Newbury, Berkshire RG14 5BX, 01635 34140.

The Advice: The family is relatively well protected in the event of David's premature death by the endowment policies which would repay their mortgage loans and the death-in-service benefit of four times his salary from his employer. Kate would need a net income of about £17,000 a year in today's terms to maintain her standard of living. A further £90,000 of cover on David's life would be required to maintain this cash flow, proofed against inflation.

Additionally, it would be sensible if David could receive a lump sum should he fall victim to a critical illness, such as heart attack, stroke



or cancer. Cover to provide, up to David's age 60, a benefit of £50,000 for critical illness with a further £90,000 payable on death would, as David is a smoker, require a contribution of £110.78 per month. A policy offered by Pegasus is comprehensive and competitive in cost. David's employer would maintain his net income in the event of long-term sickness or disablement

until his normal retirement age. The family's basic financial security derives, for the most part, from David's existing terms of employment. Clearly, were he to change jobs a full review of the benefits provided would be

Photogroph: Rui Xavier

To provide £4,000 per annum in today's terms for each of their two sons at university over a three-year course it would be sensible to use personal equity plans (PEPs), which have tax advantages and potential to achieve above-inflation returns. Regular contributions of £200 per month increasing at 5 per cent a year compound, payable for six years, should provide the funds for when the children are 18, assuming an investment growth rate exempt from tax at 9 per cent per annum compound. We would suggest

Skandia's MultiPep which offers a competitive

fund managers. Notice does however need to be taken of the Government's plans to launch In-Planning for dividual Savings Accounts with effect from the future: April 1999. To ensure that these funds for uni-David and versity were available in the event of David's pre-Kate Watson mature death, additional cover on his life of have a clear £24,000 would be required, meaning a monthlist of priorities .. ly outlay of a further £15.

With their mortgage paid off when David reaches his 60th birthday, the Watsons expect to spend about £19,000 a year in today's terms to maintain their desired standard of living. On present projections the benefits arising from David's past and present pension schemes appear to show that expenditure will exceed income by about £3,000 a year.

Section 1. 4

Section Section

State Training

. . . . .

.2.2

How to de

The section with the section of the

10 to 10

Control of the state of the sta

عالم: " يت تسم \* من

عراكورست والدخاج

Be .......

March ...

Section in the second

Aside from his employer's contributions, it is possible for David to set aside up to 15 per cent of his taxable earnings and scope exists for an additional £3,900 to be invested each year, on which he would receive tax relief at his marginal rate of 40 per cent. As he is already contributing to a pension top-up scheme, he could either increase contributions to this, or make contributions to his employer's own Additional Voluntary Contributions Scheme.

If David wishes to take retirement earlier than age 60, greater contributions will need to be made to achieve an equivalent result. On the basis of present funds and contributions it is worth noting that retiring at age 55 would increase the shortfall referred to above to about £7,500 a year.

The proceeds of the maturing endowment policy (£9,000) could be used in three ways. First, £3,000 could clear the credit card debt on which interest charges are high. A further £3,000 could provide a contingency fund in a building society account in Kate's name (as the lower rate taxpayer) and the balance of £3,000 made as a lump sum investment into the PEP referred to above, to give a head start to the saving programme for the boys university education. Windfall shares held in David's name could be transferred into Kate's name reducing the charging structure and a wide range of fund liability to tax on dividends from 40 to 20 per cent. choice, including those of many of the best known

#### UNDER THE SPOTLIGHT/CHASE DE VERE DOUBLE BONUS BOND

### When investment becomes a game of two halves

vestment of £10,000.

Don't get too excited; this only bond. applies to half of the investment. Plus points: This is the first time

Exclusive Double Bonus Bond. est 6.5 per cent. The 10 per cent The deal: It offers a rate of re- half is invested in a guaranteed turn of 10 per cent a year net of one-year bond with GE Finanbasic-rate tax on a minimum in- cial, the 6.5 per cent half goes into a Scottish Widows with-profits

The product: Chase De Vere's The other half gets a more mod- in five years investors have been Drawbacks and risks: The 10 competitive 6.5 per cent. This long-term investment, higher reable to get a double-digit return per cent is only paid in the first would improve if clients qualify on capital guaranteed not to year. As Tim Whiting of finan- for a terminal bonus. Is it for the erode over one year. For anyone cial adviser Johnstone Douglas short-term investor looking for with over £10,000 in a taxed bank points out, if investors want a high or building society account, this would represent a very sharp improvement.

one-year return, why not put all

return, or the long-term investor seeking security? "There's a detish Widows bond returns an un- about it," says Mr Whiting, For

turns may be had elsewhere. Verdict: A schizophrenic product with half its heart in the right place. Better than a taxed bank account. But then, what isn't? of it in the GE bond? The Scot. gree of the phoney marriage. Marks out of five: Two and a half. - Andrew Verity

### The Index-Tracking PEP

WHAT MAKES LEGAL & GENERAL'S FTSE ALL-SHARE INDEX-TRACKING PEP OUTSTANDING VALUE FOR MONEY?

glance at the table will show that 🕰 - since its launch nearly two years ago - this Index-Tracking PEP from Legal & General has proved that it offers PEP investors superb value for money.

It follows the FTSE All-Share Index. This Index reflects the performance of the entire stock-



market, so it reduces the risk of being over-exposed to shares which under-perform and lessen your return. In fact, £6,000 invested in the Legal & General Index-Tracking PEP

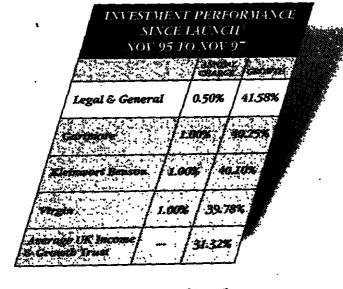
FROM JUST at launch would now be worth £8.494° compared to A MONTH! just £7,879° in the

Income & Growth Trust.

With no initial

charges deducted, more of your money is invested at the outset for maximum growth potential, there are no withdrawal fees and with an annual management charge of 0.5% the value for money is outstanding.

To find out more call now, return the coupon or contact us at http://www.legal-and-general.co.uk



The FTSE All-Share **Index-Tracking PEP that** performs the best

> " Most PEPs charge 1% or more annually and also have Other charges when you first invest."

Find out more now-phone free 0500 11 66 22

ERLEPHONE Sam 10 Spm WELKDAYS 9.00 TO 5pm WELKENDS, PLEASE QUOLE REE: Baddis For your protection case will usually be recorded and sandomly monitor

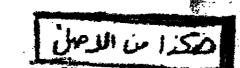
YES - ( would like more in Post to Legal & Gene	dormation about the Legal & General Index-Tracking PEP ral (Direct) Limited, FREEPINT SWCU46*, Carditl CF1 1YW.
Surpame (Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms)	Emenantes
Address	
Protection	Date of birth / /
Tel. No: Home	Tel. Nor Work
	ent. please tock from Buttle a proposed has proved safe), been and then, we can red to a legal & General safety of companies that we believe may be type that controls selected unsequency please that here !  General

invest On-line to a reading name of Royal & Sun Allianner Unit Trust Management Limited, requirered in England with No. 2170242, regulated by IMRO and the Personal Investment Authority. The reputation re. FTSEP is a joint made mark of the Landon Stock Etch. International Limited under money. 1997 and some of this product All copyright of the more to use much conversal to the creation of this product dex value and countrieve list vests in FTSE international Littured. Royal & Sun Alliance has obtained full licenses from FTSE International Littured to use each copyright in the creat

ONLY 0.3%		ROYAL &
ANNUAL		SUNALLIANCE
MANAGEMENT CHARGE		
CHARGE	HEVOL	We're confident you won't. Especially
		when you realise that the Rose Tracker
		PEP has one of the lowest annual manage-
REGULAR		ment charges on the market at just 0.3%.
SAVINGS	can iting	It's the latest offer from Invest On-
FROM £50		line, the direct investment arm of one of
A MONTH		the UK's leading insurance companies,
	a bottor	Royal & Sun Alliance.
	a better	Unlike some index trackers, the
LUMP SUM		Rose Tracker PEP spreads your invest-
INVESTMENTS FROM £1,000		ment over the whole FTSE All-Share
(110111 × 1,020	Tracker	Index, not just the top 100 companies, so
		reducing the risks.
		You can start investing from as little
NO EXIT		as £50 each month, or with a lump sum
CHARGES		of £1000 or more. Even if you already
		have a PEP it is very easy to transfer your
The state of the s		funds to the Rose Tracker.
	buv it.	For your investment guide, call free
EASY TO		now on 0500 100 333 or clip the coupon
TRANSFER		below. Our friendly and knowledgeable
EXISTING		staff will be happy to answer any ques-
PEFS		tions you may have.
500.110		<u> </u>

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE ROSE TRACKER PEP CALL FREE ON

OPEN / DAYS A WEEK 8AM-10PM	, , , ,	
Invest On-line, FREEPOST 3479, Reading, B	berkehin DC to orre	
THE PARTY OF THE P	Surname	
Address		
) would like more information about: 1.Regular savings 2.Lump sum i	Date o	f Birth
		existing PEP



### COLLECT TO INVEST

### Images the art world forgot

The story of Western civilised art begins with icons - still the only historic art form disdained by the art establishment's museums and galleries. Consequently, they are still the cheapest. John Windsor goes on a pilgrimage.

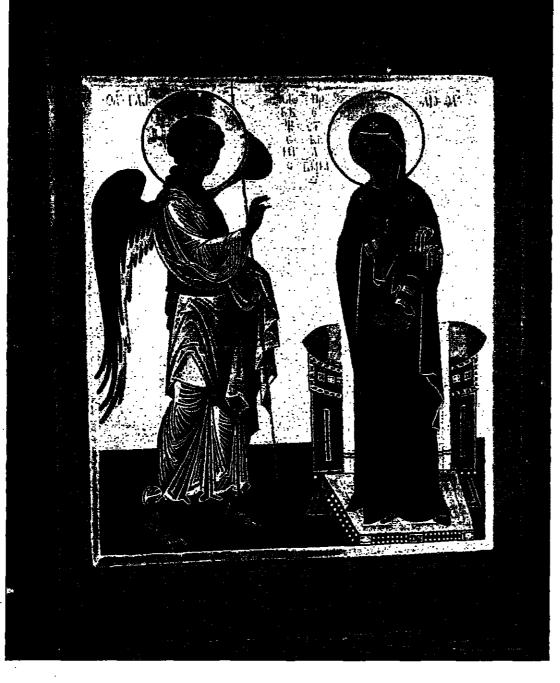
If you invest in icons hoping that an art-historical penny is about to drop - as, indeed, it should -you could be in for a wait. The fear of fakes and smuggled goods and the centuries-old suspicion that icons are idolatrous will ensure that those radiant saints, even Christ himself, will continue to be excommunicated from the commercial mainstream.

Console yourself by scrutinising the 13th century Italian primitives by Duccio of Sienna, and by Cimabue and Giotto of Florence, in the National Gallery. Are these really the first modern paintings, as the authorities would have us believe?

True, the first, faltering attempts at natural realism, especially the Florentines', presage the Renaissance. But the gold ground, simple forms and strong egg-tempera colours owe inspiration to a magnificent, older tradition of art - icon painting - that has been stuffed under the academic carpet.

Its centre was not in Italy but in Constantinople, today's Istanbul - glittering, ancient citadel of the Byzantine empire and of the Eastern Orthodox Church. There never was a Dark Age in Constantinople. Yet icons painted there by Christian monks before and during the Renaissance are today worth only a fifth or even a tenth of the price they might fetch if they had accustomed to. been painted in Italy.

(Roman Catholic) churches in icon painting, with its archaic, elongated figures and stylised facial expressions, remained intact wherever the Orthodox Church held sway - notably in establish a track record of



Eastern Orthodox and Western country and Constantinople had been sacked by Moslem mained, as it were, off the map.

> Today, icons are a narrow and unpredictable market, with too few buyers and sellers to prices. Recent scandals have not He says: "It's an accident of his-

the naturalism that Western ering from the fiasco of 1980, European eyes have become when Christie's sold the American George Hahn's collection Rich 18th century English- of Russian i.ons for record It is partly a matter of taste. men on Grand Tours bought art sums, only in have most of them Following the schism between in Italy. Russia was a closed denounced as takes by a former Gallery in Moscow, which had 1054, the Eastern tradition of Turks in 1453. So icons re- sold them in the 1920s. In the know it's there, but they wish it end, the icons turned out to be

> plumetted and stayed low. Dick Temple, a dealer in icons for 40 years, is optimistic.

genuine - but prices had

Renaissance led painting into helped. Prices are still recov- tory that the West knows more ian Old Masters can fetch. Mr about Asian or American art Temple had sold the icon 20 than Byzantine. But everybody is fascinated by icons and everybody knows that, eventually, they are going to recover.

"The art establishment treat alternative medicine. They would go away".

Sotheby's got £232,500 two years ago for a 15th century Russian icon - a world record for an icon but still a trifle compared with the millions that Ital-

years previously for £12,000. Its title: Christ Among the Doctors. An exhibition of Russian

icons, "Holy Russia", opens at the Royal Academy in London your eye for them before then by previewing Christie's sale on Thursday (2pm) of the Provatoroff collection and the Russian icons in the general sale that precedes it (10.30am).

Remember that the artists were not striving for naturalis-

Modern icons: The Annunciation

by the Russian artist Sergei Fedorov, on sale at Long & Ryle Art International for £4,000

tic representation. Icon simply means image. They aimed to project the spirituality of saints and position them in the macrocosm. The stylised outlines such as the bending in unison of the three myrrh-bearing women at the deposition of Christ - were a convention strictly adhered to through the centuries. Readily identified, they had a narrative impact even on the illiterate - as well as being objects of veneration.

St Nicholas the Wonder Worker, in an 18th century 13in by 11in icon estimated £1,500-£2,000 in the general sale, can always be identified as a bishop with a short beard, receding hair, one hand raised and the other holding the gospels.

Mr Temple offers larger icons

than most in the Christie's sale. His 16th century Russian Christ in Majesty, 67in high by 45in wide, is priced £95,000. He has noticed more buyers willing to pay £50,000-£100,000. But he says quality can still be found in the £750-£2,000 range - that is, good painting, good colour, good composition. These are Old Masters, however anonymous.

Icons are still being painted. Long & Ryle Art International sells the work of a brilliant Russian artist, 35-year-old Sergei Fedorov. His effulgent 3ft by 1ft 10in Annunciation in traditional tempera, gold and silver on wood, is priced £4,000.

Maria Andipa's Icon Gallery has decorative 18th century Greek provincial icon fragments for as little as £70. And for coloured reproductions from £2-£4.95 and a calendar of 24 icons in colour, with commentaries (£14.95 plus £5.50 p&p), try St Paul Multimedia run by the Daughters of St Paul. These days, even the Western Church is catching up on icons.

"A Brief Illustrated History of Icons" by Richard Temple, £5 plus £1 p&p: Temple Gallery, 6 Clarendon Cross, London W11 (0171-727 3809). Christie's restorer at the fretvakov treats them rather like doctors on 19 March. But you can test (0171-839 9060). Royal Academy (0171-300 8000). Long & Ryle Art International, 4 John Islip Street, London SWI (0171-834 1434). Maria Andipa, 162 Walton Street, London SW3 (0171-589 2317), St Paul Multimedia. 199 High Street, Kensington, London W8 (0171-937 9591).

### INTERNET INVESTOR

robin amlôt



### A new way to go for broking

been launched for investors in the London market. Xest, a division of Charles Stanley Stockbrokers, has set up an execution-only share trading performance. service in conjunction with Electronic Share Information

Xest charges a flat fee of £20 per transaction. A specially tailored package of market information from ESI is built into the Xest website, including share prices - real time or 20 minute delayed; personal portfolio management - the ability to store and value automatically; charting - stock charts per share; and

You are required to deposit funds in a Xest cash management account, which would earn interest at stepped rates starting at 5.25 per cent. Trading orders are authorised by a personal identification number and are immediately followed by e-mail confirma-

Unlike the other three UK brokers offering internet dealing, Xest includes sponsored membership of the Stock Exchange's Crest electronic settlement system. Crest is the computerised system for tidying up or "settling" purchases and sales of shares. Xest makes an extra charge for Crest membership, an annual fee of £45, discounted to £20 for the first year.

The main advantage of Crest membership rather than using a nominee account, is that you are the direct beneficiary of voting rights and any share benefits. However, if using a nominee account does not bother you then other services may be cheaper.

While there may only be four UK brokers offering net services now, the number is likely to grow. Information provider Datastream/ICV, which operates the Topic 3 system for City traders, has signed agreements in principle with at least two stockbrokers to link them to its Market-Eye internet site. The company hopes to link the brokers' computers direct to its website and the Stock Exchange settlement system. Datastream, believes this could cut in half the cost of straightforward execution-

only deals. The Market-Eye Internet Premium service provides real-time prices for UK shares, gilts and derivatives together with a comprehensive news service, both real-time

A new broking service has and historical. The service is also linked to Datastream's historical database. This allows you access to company accounts and historical price

The Market-Eye Internet Premium service costs £10 à month, rising to £20 per month in January. These prices are significantly below those the company charges for exactly the same information to its professional clients in the Square Mile.

The new Premium service comes as an addition to existing delayed price information and news available free to investors at Market-Eye's website which was only launched in July this year.

If you do not need realtime share prices, several sites offer you access to time-delayed prices. That is, you see prices which are 20 minutes old. If you are looking for a good source of information on companies, you should check out the site run by publisher Hemmington Scott.

This is the company which produces the Hambro Company Guide and Company Refs. All the information in these reference books is available free online. The website includes results, share price histories and broker comment and forecasts on all the quoted UK companies.

In general, service charges in the UK still have a long way to go to match those on offer in the US, where online share dealing is already estimated to

Just how cheap are some of the services available in the US market? Would you believe free? Not so much lowcost as no-cost. Florida-based Empire Financial Group is now offering free executiononly trades to its clients. There are, however, some conditions. You must have funds on deposit with the brokerage and purchase a minimum of 1,000 shares worth at least \$5 each.

Of course, the US market is different. There is much greater active individual narticipation in share trading and, therefore, much greater demand for low-cost dealing

Xest: www.xest.com Market-Eye: www.marketeye. co.uk

Hemmington Scott: www. hemscott.co.uk Empire Financial: www.lowfees.

### How to defend yourself against the VAT man

Managers who are made redundant are increasingly turning to self-employment as consultants. All too often, as Ken Welsby discovers, success in their new field can lead to problems with the VAT system.

Gerry and Joan Walker thought running a small business was hard enough. Then they were

£10,000 after the local VAT office ruled that they had

Their West Country com-

under-declared their liabilities.

puter consultancy - launched after Gerry had been "outplaced" - was still struggling to break even at the time. Joan wrote back, asking for more details. Over the next four months the exchange of correspondence grew more heated, and the Walkers became increasingly worried.

the Walkers were told that unless they paid up immediately they would be taken to court. They handed the problem over to their solicitor and accountant. After a further three months of work and worry and spending more than £1,000 on professional fees - they were told the problem was all

of the firm's books. Their liability was less than £500. The Walkers are far from be-

down to a wrong interpretation

The last straw came when ing alone. Taxpayers who appeal against VAT penalties often get a standard letter saying that "from the information given, the reasons do not amount to a reasonable excuse and the penalty therefore remains intact".

At this stage, says Nigel Ferrington, VAT consultant at chartered accountants Moores Rowland, many people mistakenly give up, "either because they are frightened of upsetting their local VAT man or because

Mr Ferrington, who deals

with up to 100 cases a year of firms facing serious VAT penalties, says it is often worth doing some "digging and delving" to provide material for the defence. Reasons which can be in-

terpreted as "reasonable excuse" can include the illness of a partner or senior staff member, pressure of work, and even - in the case of a sole they think it won't make trader or small business -

commercial sense to fight any personal and family pressures. "For example, if a big customer failed to pay, and this had

a dramatic effect on your cash

position, it would be worth

arguing the case.

"If you could show that you had done your due diligence, that the customer had appeared credit-worthy, and that you had prioritised your obligations to pay VAT ahead of trade debts, that ought to count as a reasonable excuse for non-

Please call quoting the reference bottom left

0345 6789 10

or talk to your Independent Financial Adviser.

If you don't plan to stay at one company for life, our flexible pension is just the job.

Our pension arrangements let you change job, take a career break, become self-

employed, all without penalty. Call for no fuss advice or information. Like our

pension plan, a call doesn't tie you to anything.

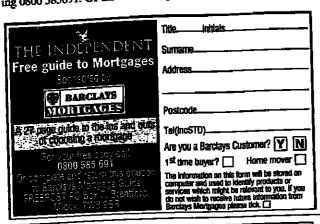
**SCOTTISH WIDOWS** 

REF: 288 D 53 For your protection, your calls to Scottish Widows may be recorded and information or advice will only be provided on Scottish Widows products. Issued by Scottish Widows' Fund and Life Assurance Society. Regulated by the Personal Investment Authority.

# 4/PERSONAL FINANCE

### Pick the best loan

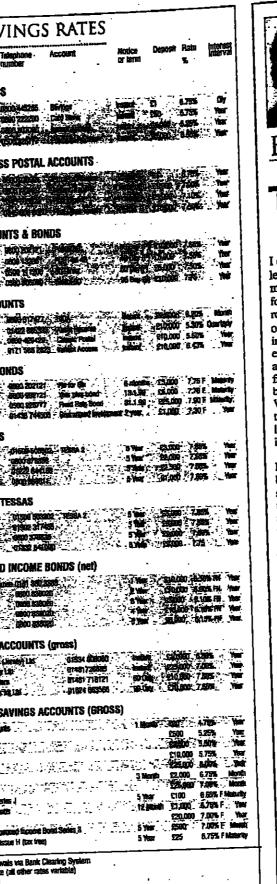
Choosing the right mortgage may seem the simplest thing in the world - until you have to take one out. The Independent has published a free "Guide to Mortgages", which answers the most common questions on how to go about getting the right loan. The guide, written by Nic Cicutti, this paper's personal finance editor, is sponsored by Barclays Mortgages. It is available by calling 0800 585691. Or fill in the coupon below.



FREEPOST PO Box 7, Brentford. Midda, TW8 95P	services which might be relevant to you. It you do not wish to receive huture information from Barciays Mortgages please tick.
DIRECT I	INE RATES
SAVIN	GS RATES
	stant Access Account
BALANCE	CONTROL COLOR WILE (
£1-£4,999	(1) <b>阿尔克里斯</b> 克里斯
£5,000-£9,999	3406
£10,000-£24,999	EARLY MANY
£25,000-£49,999	<b>正是一种经验的现在分词</b>
£50,000-£99,999	THE COMPANY OF THE PARTY OF THE
£100,000+	了第5年的 <b>多数</b> 整心是这些区。
MORTO	AGE RATE
Direct Line Standar	rd Variable Mortgage Rate
VARIABLE RATE	
APR	1.17.27 (47.88 11.3 (E. E.
All rates correct at 3rd November 1	ECT LINE ICIAL SERVICES
0181 649 9099 MORTGAGES	O181 667 1121 SAVINGS A Rayal Bank of Scotland company.
of the Direct Line product number above quoting re	ervices. For further information about either ts listed above, please phone the appropriate f. INDBB34
Mortgages and sevings provided by Direct	Line Financial Services Limited, 250 St. Vincent Servi

WE IS AT RISK IF YOU DO NOT KEEP UP REPAYMENTS ON A MORTGAGE OR OTHER LOAN SECURED ON IT.

	BEST SAVINGS RATES
BEST BORROWING RATES	Personal Parson Company Compan
Talephone % Rate and Max Fee Incentive period adv %	Tidephone Account worker (rumber crumber
IORTGAGES	INSTANT ACCESS
XEO RATE	Contract British Birling
and the Control of th	
	THE PARTY LOCALINE
ARIABLE DISCOUNTED RATES	INSTANT ACCESS POSTAL ACCOUNTS
THIST TIME BUYERS FRED RATES	NOTICE ACCOUNTS & BONDS
	NOTICE ACCOUNTS & BUNUS  BOOK FOR THE PROPERTY OF THE PROPERTY
Apple manus	Design to the second se
FREST TIME BUYERS VARIABLE DISCOUNTED BATES	Construction and the state of t
	AND THE PROPERTY.
	CHECUE ACCOUNTS
Marie Control Control Control	Man 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 10
UNSECURED PERSONAL LOANS	TO THE PARTY OF TH
•	HOUSE teache: Att see each amount
Telephons APR % Max LTV Plead (workthly payments (CSK)(ret 3 yes	PACE HAVE BURNEY
UNSECURED With Insurance Without Insurance	The state of the s
Description of the Control of the Co	St. 190 - 255,000 .7.90 - 125-00.
American Company 18.00	Som Bridge Com. Street 741505 - December Instituted System Street 3:00 F Year
SECURED (SECOND CHARGE) Next LTY-Adv Term	FIRST TESSAS
Country Bush Transcored Service Servic	STREET TO STREET THE TAX OF TA
Royal Bank of Scriptor (1600 12148) 10.005 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100	THE RESIDENCE OF THE PARTY OF T
Fig Day	Philipped 85 Date Belling Trans Tran
OVERDRAFTS	FOLLOW-ON TESSAS
Authorised Vagaborised	STATE STATE STATE TO STATE TO STATE
Refusioner Account Span APR Span APR	Secretaria
Alleger & Literate (MINISTERS) MUNICIPALITY DATE: SET 12.1	11 Database 13
Bankel Speech (See Social) (See Chapter)	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
\$00000 B 600 00000 Persons 0.00 224 2/05 2654	The second secon
CREDIT CARDS	Handre Assert Both States   No. of States   No
Telephone Card Type Min Rate APR Aunual Int.	Tree I de la company de la com
income % pm % Fee pari	Hambro Assisted Street
STANDARD	OFFSHORE ACCOUNTS (gross)
STANDARD  Condition Bank 0800 86000 990 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00	San Standard Corn & Service 1257 02534 620000 Service Children 62575 198
Co-coprision State. DEDD (DEDD) Advantage First 0.84% N 7.00% N 68 Que Region Flammag SAF 0900 520100 Sees First Linday New 100% 12.0% 18.	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
and a const	Files N. St. 18 18 18 18 18 18 18 18 18 18 18 18 18
20LD CARDS Co-control - Bank - 0.045 2122 22 1088 - 1289 - 10.005 - 11.005 - 10.00 - 10.00	MATTERIAL CAMINGS ACCRIBITS (GROSS)
THE RESERVE THE PROPERTY OF TH	The state of the s
Co-operative Back 19800 1000000 personnel 1200 100000 1000000 1000000 1000000 1000000	(Mark 1) Andrews
STORE CARDS	AND THE WORLD CONTRACT OF THE MARKET PROPERTY.
Telephone Payment by direct dabit Payment by other methods	A CONTRACT OF THE PARTY OF THE
S PM APR S PM APR	income Books House
100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100	Capital Books Series   5 Year C100 6 55% Filleburlly   Capital Books Series   12 Series   21,000 5,578% F. Year   FRSS Option Equators   12 Series   1
Radio & Spencer 01:24 855881 1989 2016 2016 2015 2015 2015 2015	
Shirt and the Shirt Washington   1999   1. Shirt and the S	Penshapers Segmented Second Book Series 3 5 Year 9550 7.00% F Maker's
A – Manimum age 22 yrs. Holders of comprehensive motor insurance policy or lender's existing cust	Childrens Bond Issue H (cox free) 5 Year 525 6.75% F Materie)
APR - Amusiked percentage rate APR - Amusiked percentage rate APR - Accident, sickness and unemployment insurance	B - Withdrawals via Bank Clearing System
B+C = Buildings and contents insurance   H = Higher rate applies if insurance not arranged	F – Freed rate (all other rates variable)  N – Met rate
LTV — Loan to value	P — By post only
NIP - Not gage securing processing N - Introductory rate for a Britand period N - Linemployment insurance	All rates are shown gross and are subject to change without notice.





BRIAN TORA

## Time to take sides

I could make a hobby of collecting jokes about economists. You know the sort. Put four economists together in a room and you will come to five opinions. If all the economists in the world were laid end to end they still wouldn't reach a conclusion. What do you call five hundred economists at the bottom of the ocean? A start. Well, it rather looks as though the economic debate is polarising. And the two sides are

inflation and deflation. The deflationary lobby is led by Roger Bootle. His book, The Death of Inflation, suggests rising prices will not return. The optimists have adopted this as the new paradigm. Productivity rising through technological advancement without inflation so no return to the boom/bust cycles of the past. On the other side of the argument are those who believe this time round is

Amongst the very vocal proponents of the belief that inflation will return to haunt us again is Professor Tim at a considerable slowdown. Congdon. Not only does he believe we are in the same old cycle as before, but he considers financial markets have failed to realise the fact.

Tim at the Greig Middleton other side of the Atlantic, I still Investment Seminar in Lon-feel fairly sanguine about the don this week. He argued cogently that it was quite Time to concentrate on the consistent to have rising out-season of goodwill, I feel, put with inflation falling. The rather than markets. problem, he suggested, was that eventually output would start to fall at a time when in-

flation was on the up. He also

considers the Bank of England

to be quite justified in raising interest rates to dampen inflationary pressures.

It is not really the outpourings of concern over the re-emergence of inflation that has prompted the rethink of market levels, epitomised in share price falls during the past few weeks. Deflation is seen as the problem. Defiation can all too easily turn into recession - and then depression if we are not careful.

You only have to look at Japan to realise deflation is a possibility. There, a particular worry is the effect that the continuing poor performance of the Tokyo market will have upon banks. At 16,000 on the Nikkei Dow, there is reason to believe balance sheets will look a little stretched. We have been through that level and are heading down to 15,000.

Back home the real worry is that the five successive interest rate rises will slow the economy too fast. With 3.5 per cent growth on the cards for this year, we may be looking

As it happens, London still looks cheap compared with Continental Europe and is an absolute bargain relative to the US. With retail buying I shared a platform with having limited the slide on the future. But you never know.

> Brian Toru is chairman of Greig Middleton's investment strategy committee and can be contacted on 0171 655 4000

> > 1100,000 Guara

INCOME PEP



If you're searching for higher interest, with penalty free access to your money, take a close look at our

Select 90 Account. You simply give us ninery days notice and you pay no penalty for withdrawals. Or you can have immediate access with ninery days loss of interest on the amount withdrawn.

All we ask is that you don't make more than three withdrawals in each calendar year.

You can choose to have your interest paid annually or monthly (we'll keep you up to date with a statement every six months).

And you've all the convenience of an account operated by first class post. Looks attractive?

This is a limited issue, so do invest now with £10,000

For details, call us free from 9 to 5 weekdays or 10 to 3 weekends. **0500 50 5000** 

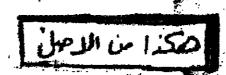
**GROSS** 8.05 6.44 £100,000÷

6.04 £50,000+ 5,96 7.45 7.80 6.24 <u>\$25,000+</u> 7.75 8.20 7.35 5.88 +000,012

Northern Rock plc. Registered Office: Northern Rock House, Gosforth, Newcastle upon Tyne NE3 4PL. www.nrock.co.uk Assets exceed £14 billion.

contect at 8.11.97 but may vary. The circumstances in which the rates may vary are described in our Select Accounts Terms and Conditions and Charges leafle aid after deduction of income rate at the lower rate four-rently 20%) or, subject to the required certification, gives. Where the rat deducted exceeds an investor's tax lain may be made to the Inland Revenue for repayment of tax. For individuals who are hable at the lugher rate of moone tax of 40% will have to pay additional tax on the interest and they will have no more tax or pay on it. Institutionals who are hable at the lugher rate of moone tax of 40% will have to pay additional tax on the interest and they will have no more tax or pay on it. Institutionals who are hable at the lugher rate of moone tax of 40% will have to pay additional tax on the interest and they will have no more tax or pay on it. Institutional tax on the interest and they will have no more tax of 40% will have to pay additional tax on the interest and they will have no more tax or pay on it. Institutional tax of the interest and they will have to pay additional tax of the interest and they will have no more tax of 40% will have to pay additional tax on the interest and they will have to pay additional tax on the interest and they will have to pay additional tax on the interest and they will have the prevaining bases savings rate. Institute the interest and they will have tax deducted and the ingress rate. In the interest and they will have tax deducted and the ingress rate. In the interest and they will have tax deducted and the ingress rate. In the ingress rate in the ingress rate and they will have tax deducted and the ingress rate. In the ingress rate in the ingress rate in the ingress rate in the ingress rate in the ingress rate. In the ingress rate in the ingress rate in the ingress rate in the ingress rate. In the ingress rate in the ingress rate in the ingress rate in the ingress rate. In the ingress rate in the ingress rate in the ingress rate in the ingress rate. In the ingr

Monthly Income Regular as clockwork Framlington Monthly Income PEP aims to pay a high and rising income, free of tax, with the prospect of capital growth. January February July Many other unit trust PEPs March August pay income every three or September AprilOctober May six months, but this PEP November June pays an income once a December month, every month. Send for details today, or ask your Independent Financial Adviser. by the sixth of every month, 0345 023138 directly into your bank account Please send me details of the Frankington Monthly Income PEP. Return the coupon to: Framlington Unit Management Limited, Freepost, P.O. Box 2, Turyford, Reading, Berkshire RG10 8BR If you do not wish to receive details of Framlington products in future, please tick the box Issued by Framington Unit Management Limited which is regulated by the Personal Investment Authority and IMRO. Member of AUTIF. The price of units and the income from them can go down as well as up and investors may not get back the amount they invested. The tax benefit of PEPs will be liable to framlington change in the future. The management fee of this fund is charged to the capital account, this will enhance income at the expense of some capital growth.





ke sides

THE JONATHAN DAVIS COLUMN

### Legend has it he saw the Great Crash coming. What would he be doing now?

Given the great interest at the moment in drawing parallels between the decade leading up to the Great Crash of 1929 and the current bull market in shares, I have this week been taking counsel from one of New York's most legendary stock

Bernard Baruch was in his own way the George Soros of his day, a hugely successful speculator whose name alone had the power to move markets, yet who also found time to move in circles of power and play his part in the current affairs of his day. Baruch died in 1965 at the age of 94, but in addition to his millions, he left behind some fascinating thoughts on the subject of how to handle the pressures of stock market

His experiences in the Great Crash were particularly interesting. At the time Baruch was in his sixties, successful in business and fabulously well connected. While continuing to play the market in large and bold manoeuvres, he had ceased to be a full-time market operator and sat as a director on a number of well-known companies.

Most of what there was to know about what was happening was his to know. Winston Churchill was just one of those who took advantage of visits to New York to take advice on what he should do with his investments. (Baruch in return contributed \$100 to a fund to buy the future Prime Minister a Rolls-Royce).

Legend has it that Baruch was one of the few investors of the day to see the Crash coming: in his autobiography, he says he realised something

shooting trip in Scotland. In addition to baling out of stocks in time to avoid the worst of the crash, he implies that he also made a substantial amount of money by "going short" as well - that is, selling shares he did not yet own in the expectation of buying them back at a profit later. Although the bulk of his market gains came from riding bull markets. Baruch had always been an active short seller.

What made the Great Crash of 1929 so devastating was that it was actually a three-year bear market, not just the daily sensation that survives in popular legend.

The Dow Jones index did fall 13 per cent in one day in October 1929 (a smaller fall in percentage terms than October 1987), but the damage did not stop there. Between its peak in 1929 and the low point in July 1932, the market fell by no less than 89 per cent. The attrition, coupled with the fact that many investors were buying shares with borrowed money, was what eventually bankrupted so many.

Despite his public assurances, Baruch did not in fact survive the market's fall unscathed. As his biographer, James Grant, points out, when his secretary prepared an audit of Baruch's finances in November 1931, it showed that his total assets amounted to some \$16m. This was a good deal less than at the peak of the market in 1929, when his net worth was estimated to be around \$22m-

In a note to a politician friend at the time, judgment ("don't let what you want to happen in- Photograph: Hulton Getty

was badly wrong with the markets while on a Baruch confided: "I can tell you that the drop in my securities has been very severe, but I can still live in comfort and peace as I have done before. But I may not be able to help out in many of the directions I have heretofore, until the ship floats anew on the incoming tide, which of course it will do some time.'

Although the records of his dealing activities are frustratingly incomplete, it is clear that the idea that Baruch cleaned up during the Great Crash was therefore no more than a popular myth. For all his connections, and his years of experience, the evidence suggests that he did not get out of shares in time to avoid the impact of the

Even so, the breakdown of his assets at the time of his audit shows how successful Baruch was in avoiding the worst of the market's fall. In November 1931, according to his secretary's note, no less than half his money was in cash: \$8m out of the \$16m total. The rest was split more or less evenly between stocks and bonds.

Yet Baruch's private papers support the idea that he may have been more exercised by the market's fall than his public demeanour suggested. In a note he wrote to himself in 1930, he set out the qualities he reckoned it took to be a successful

Top of the list he prepared was what he called "personal equipment", or what we might call today character. He listed six main decisive qualities: self-reliance ("do your own thinking"); From bull to bear: Wall Street in 1929



fluence your judgment"); courage; openness to new facts; prudence ("become more humble as the market goes your way"); and pliability ("Stubbornness as to opinions must be entirely eliminated", he opined, adding, "When you decide, act promptly, don't wait to see what the market will do.")

There followed a list of prices and economic indicators ("the facts") that Baruch reckoned it was worth following in trying to judge the level

Finally, he added a section on psychology, observing that nearly everyone is controlled by their emotions, and that people "become alternatively over-optimistic and over-pessimistic." His advice was: "Have an opinion on what the market should do, but don't decide what the markets will do." (In other words, don't try and fight the way the market is moving, since it will always over-

shoot one way or another). And finally, he thought, "Always make allowances for chance - keep a financial and mental and physical reserve. Always reduce commitment if doubtful."

What would Baruch think of today's markets? History does not of course relate. His motto was the one I mentioned last week: "Cut your losses and then your profits". But he also had this advice for himself: "In general, run quickly." In other words, when you decide to change your stance on a market, do so decisively - and above all don't get caught financing deals with borrowed money. In today's markets, investors might care to

### **BARGAIN BASEMENT**

### A good job for insurance

Coverguard accident, sickness adviser or 0117 971 1177. and insurance policy for other factors. For instance, a teacher aged 39 would pay £3.63 a month for each £100 of monthly cover taken out. Call

Glasgow Lovestment Managers is extending the no-initialpepable investment trusts -Shires Income, Shires Smaller Companies and Glasgow Income Trust - until December 31. Call 0800 435797.

Hill Samuel Asset Management is launching an investment companies in the UK and Germany. Initial costs are 0.75 per cent, with a 1 per cent annual management fee. Minimum lump sum investments are launching a policy to cover

Eagle Star

Scottish Widows

Legal & General

Marks and Spencer

Virgin Direct

Eagle Star

Virgin Direct

Legal & General

Scottish Widows

Marks and Spencer

Building Society's insurance miums. Details from your nearbroking arm is launching a new est independent financial

The Association of Investhomebuyers, in which policy- ment Trust Companies has holders will be charged on the published a free fact-sheet exbasis of their job status and plaining how to use investment trusts to provide income. Call 0171 431 5222.

oan repayment rates for loans between £500 and £5,000. Charges on the Select Personcharge offer for its three al Loan now range from 16.5 a free guide to help homeper cent APR on loans up to owners reduce the effect of £2,900 to 11.9 per cent APR on winter weather, with details on loans from £10,000.

FirstMortgage, the telephone lender, is launching a two-year discount of 3.55 per cent on its existing 8 per cent trust PEP focusing on smaller variable home loan rate. The company also offers a four-year fixed mortgage, charging 6.15 per cent. Call 0800 080088.

Nordstern Insurance is

Low Cost

Assurance

£100,000 Guaranteed Cover, 25 Year Term

MEN (NON SMOKER)

WOMEN (NON SMOKER)

Eagle Star

Legal & General

Scottish Widows

Marks and Spencer

Virgin Direct

**Eagle Star** 

Legai & General

Scottish Widows

Marks and Speacer

Virgin Direct

Age 35

£17.99

£19.10

£19.60

£21.23

£11.89

£12.30

£13.43

£13.55

£13.75

Life

£11.93

£12.45

£12.60

£14.47

£9.18

£9.30

£10.00\*

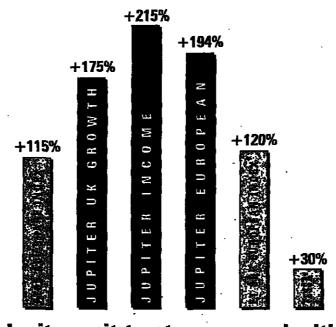
artefacts if legal title to their purchases is in dispute. Call 0171 6265001.

Cartyle Life has launched a scheme allowing home income plan borrowers, who take out a loan on their properties to live off their income, to benefit from double the normal Miras Woolwich is offering a 1 per tax benefits typically available cent reduction on its standard on the first £30,000 of their

loans. Call 01222 371725. Prospero Direct, the home and motor insurer, is offering who to contact if disaster strikes. Call 0500 500575.

Birmingham Midshires Guernsey, the building society's offshore arm, is launching a 90-day notice account paying 7.75 per cent gross on balances above £50,000. On deposits of £10,000, the account pays 7.55 per cent gross. Call 01481

# MAKE TRACKS TO JUPITER NG-TERM PERFORMANCE



Jupiter unit trusts compared with indices and TESSA

Source Micropal. Offer to bid, net income reinvested, 5 years to 3.11.97 \*UK Savings TESSA £3,000 investment index. \*\*Excluding UK

As a leader in long-term performance, Jupiter puts index tracking in the shade.

Over the past five years our long-established mainstream funds, Jupiter UK Growth, Income, and European shine out as stars in their sectors and have comfortably beaten the relevant Stock Market indices and associated tracking funds.

Jupiter's record of performance stems from a consistent investment strategy carried through by a team of top-quality, long-serving fund managers.

For further information on our range of unit trusts and/or the Jupiter PEP, talk to your financial adviser, call us free now or return the coupon.

Get on the right track, get onto Jupiter.



FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL FREE ON 0500 0500

Age next Birthday. Sample monthly premium rates only. Source: Company's illustration, 2/10/97. \*£10.00 minimum premium gives cover of £103,896 0800 77 66 66 Open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week PENSIONS and LIFE ASSURANCE...

DIRECTLY BY TELEPHONE The plan must end before your 70th birthday. These figures are based on cover acceptable at ordinary rates.

me

ockwork

The plan is also available for ages 18 to 64 next birthday for various terms of cower. Full written details are available on request. For your protection, your call to Eagle Star may be recorded. Eagle Star Life Assurance Company Limited is regulated by the Personal Investment Authority. Information or advice will only be provided on Eagle Star products.

Jupiter Unit Trust Managers Ltd is regulated by IMRO and the Personal Investment Authorny, Member of AUTIE A subsidiary of Commerchank AG, one of Germany's leading banks. It should always be remembered that be affected by exchange rate variations, and you may not get back the amount invested. Current tax levels and reliefs will depend on your Individual direumstances. It was amounted in the July 1997 Budget that tax credits to 100% of the annual management fee is to be taken from capital of Growth 5. Income Trust and High Income Fund. This may accordingly restrict capital growth. For your recurring we may record or rendominator all telephone calls. Copies of the half-yearly and annual reports may be obtained from Jupiter Unit Trust Managers Ltd, Knightsbridge House, 197 Knightsbridge, London SW7 188. Scheme navisation and

### UNDERSTANDING THE STOCK MARKET

### Gilts: no gold but a solid income

Understanding shares and the stock market also means coming to grips with safer, income-yielding savings, including gilts. In the latest in his series, John Andrew explains what this Government-backed investment is all about.

Right down at the bottom of The Independent's shares page there is a section headed Government Securities. Although they are known as gilts, the certificates, contrary to popular belief, have never been edged with gold.

The name is likely to have been coined because of their reputation, as the Government has never reneged on any gilt. However, this does not mean they are without risk. as the price of gilts traded on the stock market fluctuates.

There are two basic types of gilt - index-linked gilts (TLGs) and conventional ones. In this article we will concentrate on the latter.

There are four sub-categories of conventional gilts. Perpetuals have no set redemption date and will probably never be repaid. Shorts will be redeemed within two years; mediums from two to 12 years, while longs are redeemable anything above 12 years.

Gilts have names such as Treasury, Conversion, Exchequer or Funding. The actual name of the gilt is academic; what is important is the interest rate it pays and its redemption date. The last one listed on our shares page is Tsy 8% 21, which is shorthand for 8 per cent Treasury 2021. This means that this gilt pays an interest rate of 8 per cent - also known as the coupon - and it will be redeemed in the year 2021.

While every £100 nominal value of Treasury 8% 2021 will pay £8 a year for the next 25 years, the price one really pays for it will fluctuate on the market. Prices move to reflect actual and anticipated changes in interest rates. Simplistically, if interest rates rise, the price of gilts falls and vice versa.

The explanation for this is simple. The higher the interest rate, the greater must be the value of the interest paid by the gilt. This works the other way round, too. Say a gilt was issued when interest rates generally were 10 per cent. Let us call this fictitious stock Gilt 10%. One hundred pounds nominal value of the stock would produce an income of £10 a year. If interest rates in the market fell to 5 per cent, Gilt 10%

would still pay interest of £10 a year. Investors would then be prepared to pay up to £200 for each £100 nominal value of Gilt 10% as at this price it would still produce an income of 5 per cent a year (£10 as a percentage of £200). This is an over-simplification as the price is determined by investors' views of future rates and the redemption date of the stock.

The prices quoted for gilts are for £100 nominal value. They are the middle of the buying and selling prices at the close of business on the previous business day. Look again at the entry for Tsy 8% 21 on the shares page. You will see that investors will have to pay around £120 to secure £100 nominal val-

The penultimate column is headed Red Yld. This is the abbreviation for redemption yield. As you will see, it is around one and a haif points below the coupon rate of 8 per cent. This is because the redemption yield is the sum of all the gross interest dividends and the capital gain or loss at redemption, expressed as a percentage return per year. It is lower than the coupon rate because at redemotion. investors will make a capital loss.

The booklet "Government Stock" is obtainable from all main Post Offices or by calling 0645 645

## For investors of a nervous disposition

Fund managers use a range of guaranteed funds to tempt nervous investors into the stock market. But as Paul Slade argues, even in a case like October's share price plunge, the value of these guarantees can be more apparent than real.

Many building society savers know that the stock market is where the best returns are to be found, but still do not quite have the nerve to put their money into a traditional unit trust. They saw the stock market phummet in the 1987 Crash, watched appalled at the market's ridiculous gyrations at the end of last month, and conclude it is all too risky.

The industry has responded by launching a range of equity funds which either promise your capital sum cannot fall over a period of five years, or lock in your gains every few months by regularly setting a floor price which your units cannot fall below. These are usually marketed as "guaranteed", "protected" or "capital secure" funds.

Such products are a powerful sales tool for fund managers, as they provide nervous investors with just enough reassurance to take the plunge into equities. But the guarantees they offer come only at the price of reduced performance, and the chances of those guarantees ever being triggered is next to zero. Some funds provide the guarantees by withholding part of your cash from the equity market, using derivatives to cover the risk instead. Others retain the dividend income you would otherwise get from your shares - currently about 4 per cent

Independent financial adviser Amanda Davidson, a partner at London-based Holden Meehan, says: "Nothing comes for nothing and that's as true in the investment world as anywhere else. If you're getting something that looks as if its shoring up your potential losses then you're paying for it somewhere along the line.

"I'd prefer most clients to be investing in ordinary unit trusts or investment trusts and let them take the full risk and the full reward. These come closest to setting the floor price



things are very finely costed and, if the guarantee is likely to be invoked, they're probably taking more out of the client's investment.'

The market's dramatic moves at the end of last month provide a perfect opportunity to illustrate how these funds work in practice. Let's take the example of Tuesday 28 October, when the FTSE 100 index of leading shares plunged 457 points as soon as the market opened.

Even at this nadir, five-year guarantees - had such products existed in 1992 - would have been irrelevant. as the market remained well above its level five years ago. On 28 October, when the market recorded its lowest closing price, the FTSE 100 share index remained 79 per cent above its level on that date in 1992.

If any guaranteed fund's floor price were to come into play as a result of the 28 October fall, you would expect it to be one of the funds which reset its floor price every quarter the most frequent re-calibration available. These funds would have

which applied on October 28 while markets were at their peak.

to 138.74p. By 7 November it had fallen back to 137.69p. In fact, the AJB Govett's UK Safeguard unit Govett guarantee can be used only trust, for example, last set its floor at the end of each three-month pe-

'Nothing comes for nothing. If you get something that looks as if it's shoring up your potential losses, then you're paying for it somewhere along the line'

price on 19 September 1997, at a riod, and so will kick in only if units level of 136.83p - equivalent to 98 per cent of the bid price on that day. The bid price is the price at which a fund manager will buy back units from investors.

Units in the AJB Govett fund are valued daily at 10.30am, which means the 28 October valuation came while markets were close to their worst point. That day's bid price was 135.94p, nearly a penny below the floor value.

By the next day, the bid price had already climbed back to 138.23p and by 3 November had climbed further

are worth less than the floor price of 136.84p on December 19 this year. In effect, the drop on so-called Red Tuesday was cancelled out by the subsequent recovery.

Independent financial adviser Graham Bates says: "Where you're looking at repricing every three months, it's possible investors will have seen some benefit in the very short-term. But, of course, because the market jumped again so quickly, it could only have applied immediately after the major market fall on the morning of Tuesday 28 October.

Only an absolutely panic-stricken investor would have sold then." Of course, that picture can change. As many experts recognise, the biggest falls seen in UK stock markets over the past 15 years have tended to take place in brief. flurries fasting days or weeks, accompanied by relatively depressed share prices for a few more months until a recovery is under way.

If share prices were to drop by, say, more than 10 per cent and then stay at that new level over the prescribed three-mouth re-pricing period, the maximum loss of most guaranteed funds would be pegged at 5 per cent, the amount put in risk. during that time, limiting the downside. They would then have the chance to regain in value during the next three months.

One further disadvantage of guaranteed funds is that they often tend to place pre-agreed limits on the investment period. But if markets were to fall by 5 per cent, and then another 5 per cent in the final six months before the fund matures, the total 10 per cent loss has to be borne. By contrast, a typical investor might prefer to ride out the rough patch and wait for a more propitious time to dispose of his or her unit or investment trusts.

Stung for a on good ad

ALE TE SEE

grama: : : :

serie:

St.

Find or

not all th

Few lunds, one of them being the Close Escalator Fund, allow a noexit limit whereby gains - and losses - can continue to be locked in ad infinitum. The Close Fund, however, tracks not just the UK and/or the US markets, but a range of indices around the world, including Japan, the Far East and Australasia.

Don Clark, another IFA, agrees that guarantees are often not very good value, but makes one exception. If you know you will need a set amount of money at a certain date in the future - for a family wedding, perhaps - he says it may be a good idea to switch to a suitable guaranteed fund about 18 months before the event soyou know the minimum amount will be there when you need it.

Ms Davidson adds: "There are some people who just sleep easier knowing there is a guarantee there, and if that is the case, then it's worth paying for. Many clients may not realise the full price they pay, such as loss of dividends, but I think most are canny enough to know you don't get anything for nothing."

# Morgan Grenfell Managed Portfolio Fund. Consistent global ertormance.

The Morgan Grenfell Managed Portfolio Fund gives you the opportunity to gain access to world stock markets through investments in Morgan Grenfell's extensive range of unit trusts and offshore funds. It is available through a PEP\* enabling you to take all profits tax-free. For investments of £10,000 or more, you can take advantage of the special service offered by the new Managed Portfolio Premier Investment Account which features a quarterly personal reporting package.

The fund has consistently outperformed the sector average over 1 year, 2 years, 3 years, 4 years, 5 years, 6 years, 7 years and 8 years as well as since its launch on 27 March 1989†.

\*You should be aware that the government announced in the July 1997 budget that from April 6 1999, the tax credit on income may no longer be reclaimed in a PEP and that other tax benefits may change with the planned introduction of a new lade idual Sarings Account.

MORGAN GRENFELL

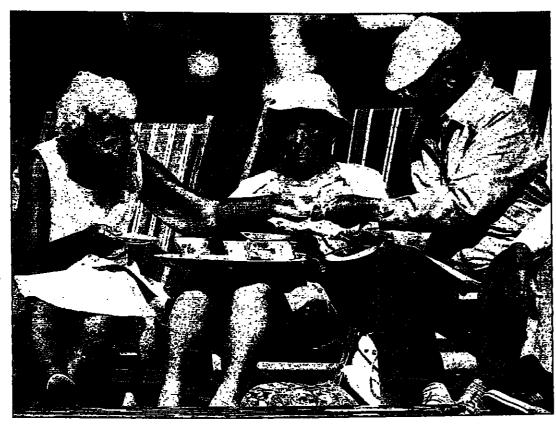
for further details please contact your usual financial adviser, complete the coupon below or call us free on ASSET MANAGEMENT 0800 282465 quoting ref. 180 15-11-95

	Please complete and return the coupon to Morgan Grenfell Investment Funds Limited, client services department, FREEPOST, 20 Finsher: Circus, London in 2B INK. Please send one further details of the Morgan Grenfell Managed Portfolio Fund and PEP  Morgan Grenfell Managed Portfolio Prender Investment Account
	Title Name
ĺ	Address
1	Postcode
	IND 15/11/97

YOUR PENSION: IN YOUR OWN TIME, IN YOUR OWN WAY. A Merchant Investors pension is an easy, convenient and flexible pension The charges are low. You can vary your contributions without charge. Pay no commission when you buy direct. No sales person will bother you. **Merchant Investors** Assurance Regulated by the Personal Investment Authority and part of Allianz - one of Europe's largest insurers Mail this coupon to: Merchant Investors Assurance Company Limited, Freepost BS 6013, Bristol BS1 2UZ MR / MRS / MISS / MS (please circle as appropriate)

CALL NOW ON 0800 374857 FOR A BROCHURE YES or NO (please dirde)

Are you EMPLOYED or SELF EMPLOYED ? (please circle) If EMPLOYED, are you in your company pension scheme?



Decisions on transferring pension holdings can have a huge impact on your future prospects

The pension poser for people who stop paying

Each year hundreds of thousands of personal pension holders stop paying premiums early. Should they transfer holdings to occupational schemes, another personal pension, or leave them to grow with their present company until maturity? In the first of a two-part series, John Chapman looks at the options.

Typically, the key factor will be the value of any holdings transferred out. as compared to how much they are worth if left with the existing scheme. This second option means accepting a "paid up" value. However, savers may be misled by an inflated paidup estimate of their holdings.

Transfer values, how much a fund is worth when it is switched to another scheme, are reasonably well understood. They are known to be considerably less, usually, than the total contributions paid in.

But until recently, paid-up values

have been a grey area. No longer. Alan Lakey, an independent financial adviser at Highelere Financial Services, obtained projected transfer values and paid-up values at key stages of pension plans, and the projected value at maturity, assuming growth of 9 per cent a year less charges, if the money is simply left

in the existing personal pension. His survey for the magazine Money Management shows that most companies offer identical transfer and paid-up values. But out of 51 companies, 14 project dramatically higher paid-up values. At the twoyear stage of 30-year policies with premiums of £200 a month, transfer values of around £2,000 are exceeded by paid-up values of about £5,000.

Let's put things in perspective. After two years, a total of £4,800 of premioms will have been paid. What might you expect the value of your fund to be? With some companies you will get transfer and paid-up values of nearly all your outgoings and sometimes more. For example, Equitable Life shows net growth of 8.5 per cent per annum, with only 0.5 per cent being taken in charges. Many oth-

er companies have miserable two-year transfer values but apparently redeem themselves with high paid-up values

However, the projected growth rates of some paid-up values are abysmal. With J Rothschild Assurance and Skandia Life, growth in the value of the fund until maturity is only about 4 per cent a year, with an amazing 5 per cent going in annual charges. The projected maturity value from Sun Life is only £12,024, less than a quarter of the £49,566 from Equitable Life.

The splendid paid-up values are illusory. They cannot be cashed in and the maturity values are general poor. Should plan-holders instead take the miserable transfer values on offer and seek higher growth elsewhere? In many cases, yes.

The charges that cause this havoc often arise from premiums being put into "capital units" (a grotesque misnomer) and levies on first and second year premiums eating into plan holdings each year until maturity. Next week, we will publish tables showing where many of the companies stand, to help you decide whether switching is right for you.

### Stung for acting on good advice

Investors are being penalised by personal pension providers for taking up the offer of a good occupational pension - despite this being universally recommended as best advice, writes Andrew Verity.

Fresh research by Lincoln, a life insurer which sees 45 per cent of its regular pension premiums lapse within three years, shows that 20 per cent of the lapses occur because policyholders are offered an occupational scheme.

An independent poll of 200 policyholders who stopped paying in, conducted for Lincoln by Marplan, revealed that 34 per cent lapsed because of unemployment, 23 per cent because of a career break to raise a child, and 20 per cent because they were offered a good occupational scheme

Wayne Taylor, marketing and communications manager at Lincoln, says: "The research shows that 77 per cent of those who lapsed did so for genuine

reasons. The findings echo the massive review of mis-selling of pensions being pushed ahead by Helen Liddell, the Economic Secretary to the Treasury. This

people who had lost thousands because they opted for a personal pension rather than an occupational scheme.

Lincoln's findings, supported by Allied Dunbar research which arrives at similar conclusions, suggest that many personal pension holders are in a Catch-22 dilemma when they are offered an occupational scheme: ignore the occupational scheme and lose thousands of pounds by missing out on employer contributions; or join the scheme and lose thousands of pounds because of personal pension charges.

They come in the wake of separate research conducted by Bath-based Highclere Financial Services which shows that those who lapse early will often receive a sharply diminished pension fund when it matures. This is because a disproportionate amount of their savings disappears in life office charges.

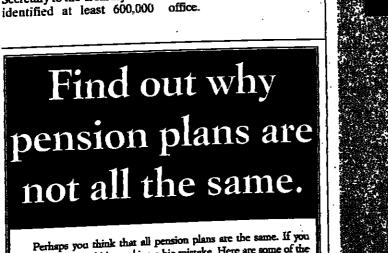
Highelere principal Alan Lakey shows that some companies, including Skandia Life, levy heavy penalties on customers who lapse - despite the knowledge that they lapse for genuine reasons.

Lakey's research shows that despite appearing inexpensive, Skandia is the most expensive office for policyholders who lapse within five years and leave their pension with that

# If all the world's top companies were British, you wouldn't need our Global Tracking PEP.

Not all the best companies are British, which is why not all of the Norwich Global Tracking PEP is invested in British companies. Unlike most other tracking PEPs, we invest in over 2,500 companies worldwide, to give excellent potential for growth.

- Growth since launch in July 1996 of 31.6%\* TAX-FREE<sup>†</sup>, with a historic return of 133.1%\*\* over 5 years.
- 75% of your investment tracks UK companies and 25% tracks companies in 27 other stock markets worldwide.
- No initial charges and no charge for transfer from other PEPs.
- Access to your money whenever you want it.



do, then you would be making a big mistake. Here are some of the reasons why you should consider an Equitable Pension Plan.

· Pays no commission to third parties for the introduction of new business.

Has no shareholders.

OUR PENSION PLAN: Lets you retire earlier or later than planned without penalty.

Lets you vary your contributions - without penalty. Provides full return of fund in the event of death

before retirement. So, if you would like to find out more about how The Equitable Pension Plan is not the same as most others, call us direct on (0990) 38 48 58 or send off the coupon below for more

y post and by telephone.

1	www.equitable.co.uk
	Information/activice will only be given on Equinable group products  Regulated by the Personal Investment Anthority  THE EQUITABLE LIFE INSEROST, WALTON STREET, ALESSUEY, SUCKINGHAMSHIKE HP21 7BR  To: The Equinable Life FREEPOST, Walton Street, AYLESBUEY, Bucks HP21 7BR  To: The Equinable Life FREEPOST, Walton Street, AYLESBUEY, Bucks HP21 7BR  TO: The Equinable Life FREEPOST, Walton Street, AYLESBUEY, Bucks HP21 7BR  TO: The Equinable Life FREEPOST, Walton Street, AYLESBUEY, Bucks HP21 7BR
	To: The Equinable Life. FREEPOST, Walton Street, AY, ESBURY, Social To: The Equinable Life. FREEPOST, Walton Street, AY, ESBURY, Social To: To: The Equinable's pension plans. I am self employed [] I wan an employee not in a company pension scheme.
	NAME (Mr Mrs Miss)
	ADDRESS
	Tel: (Office)  Tel: (Office)  Tel: (Office)  Tel: (Office)  Tel: (Interest of the second of the seco
	Date of Birth Founded 1 of
	The Equitable Life You profit from our principles
	You prome a

btects more.

0345738393

For a free information pack call

quoting reference number 11N45. Lines open weekdays gam-6pm, weekends 10am-4pm. Calls charged at local rate.

N	ςī	$\mathbb{IR}$	Δ	1	C	Γ

INVESTMENTS

HEALTHCARE

PENSIONS

	Please complete this coupon in BLC	OCK CAPITALS and return it to: Norwi	n the Norwich Global Tracking PEP. ch Union Portfolio Services Limited, FREEPOST ANG 4247, Norwich NR1 3BR.
1 4 . — — — — — — — — — — — — — — — — — —		Surname	
ddress	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·		Postcode
Telephone Number (Day)		<u> </u>	(Evening)
F: 1N45			represent visas to introduce a new Individual Contract Assessed Devices and Contract

tPlease note that it might not be possible to continue investment in a PEP after prices can go down as well as up; the performance of PEPs invested in equity based assets will reduce from 1999 due to the loss of a reclaimable tax credit. You should consider PEPs a medium to long term investment. Punds invested abroad may alter with exchange rate fluctuations. Information/advice will only relate to Norwich Union products. We may telephone you to confirm receipt of your information pack. Buy to sell performance of the Norwich Global Tracking PEP, gross income reinvested 1/7/96 to 30/9/97. \*\*Although the Norwich Global Tracking PEP has only been available for 1 year, if you had invested £1,000 on 1/10/92 in the underlying funds of the Norwich Global Tracking PEP (in the same proportions as the PEP) your investment would have been worth £2,331 (a growth of 133.1%) on 30/9/97, assuming the income tax benefits of a PEP also applied. Data that you provide may be used by Norwich Union group companies, your financial adviser or other relevant organisations for marketing purposes such as market research and contacting you also applied. Data blast your protection all telephone calls will be recorded. The Personal Investment Authority and IMRO regulate Norwich Union Portfolio Services Limited.

## 8/UNIT TRUSTS

| Control | Cont | Company | Comp 540 18 465 74 465 79 889 56 819 73 956 87 128 27 128 27 Herchard Institution supported by the construction of the construc 25507 152557 98.95 66.05 70.50 70.50 122.00 127.14 110.50 111.51 115.61 115.61 115.61 115.61 115.61 115.61 115.61 115.61 115.61 114.28 111 62 111 49 108.96 119.84 115.21 115.21 1106.69 112.01 115.53 111.53 111.53 111.76 112.73 TSS-Harder 06-90 SOU 27/4
Total/Recape Cours

UK Equity & Bond Income
Publishers 10077 500
Tables/Residence 10077 500 72 10 19 22 27 25 37 11 25 37 11 25 37 11 25 37 11 25 37 11 25 37 11 25 37 11 25 37 11 25 37 11 25 37 11 25 37 11 25 37 11 25 37 11 25 37 11 25 37 11 25 37 11 25 37 11 25 37 11 25 37 11 25 37 11 25 37 12 37 12 37 12 37 12 37 12 37 12 37 12 37 12 37 12 37 12 37 12 37 12 37 12 37 12 37 12 37 12 37 12 37 12 37 12 37 12 37 12 37 12 37 12 37 12 37 12 37 12 37 12 37 12 37 12 37 12 37 12 37 12 37 12 37 12 37 12 37 12 37 12 37 12 37 12 37 12 37 12 37 12 37 12 37 12 37 12 37 12 37 12 37 12 37 12 37 12 37 12 37 12 37 12 37 12 37 12 37 12 37 12 37 12 37 12 37 12 37 12 37 12 37 12 37 12 37 12 37 12 37 12 37 12 37 12 37 12 37 12 37 12 37 12 37 12 37 12 37 12 37 12 37 12 37 12 37 12 37 12 37 12 37 12 37 12 37 12 37 12 37 12 37 12 37 12 37 12 37 12 37 12 37 12 37 12 37 12 37 12 37 12 37 12 37 12 37 12 37 12 37 12 37 12 37 12 37 12 37 12 37 12 37 12 37 12 37 12 37 12 37 12 37 12 37 12 37 12 37 12 37 12 37 12 37 12 37 12 37 12 37 12 37 12 37 12 37 12 37 12 37 12 37 12 37 12 37 12 37 12 37 12 37 12 37 12 37 12 37 12 37 12 37 12 37 12 37 12 37 12 37 12 37 12 37 12 37 12 37 12 37 12 37 12 37 12 37 12 37 12 37 12 37 12 37 12 37 12 37 12 37 12 37 12 37 12 37 12 37 12 37 12 37 12 37 12 37 12 37 12 37 12 37 12 37 12 37 12 37 12 37 12 37 12 37 12 37 12 37 12 37 12 37 12 37 12 37 12 37 12 37 12 37 12 37 12 37 12 37 12 37 12 37 12 37 12 37 12 37 12 37 12 37 12 37 12 37 12 37 12 37 12 37 12 37 12 37 12 37 12 37 12 37 12 37 12 37 12 37 12 37 12 37 12 37 12 37 12 37 12 37 12 37 12 37 12 37 12 37 12 37 12 37 12 37 12 37 12 37 12 37 12 37 12 37 12 37 12 37 12 37 12 37 12 37 12 37 12 37 12 37 12 37 12 37 12 37 12 37 12 37 12 37 12 37 12 37 12 37 12 37 12 37 12 37 12 37 12 37 12 37 12 37 12 37 12 37 12 37 12 37 12 37 12 37 12 37 12 37 12 37 12 37 12 37 12 37 12 37 12 37 12 37 12 37 12 37 12 37 12 37 12 37 12 37 12 37 12 37 12 37 12 37 12 37 12 37 12 37 12 37 12 37 12 37 12 37 12 37 12 37 12 37 12 37 12 37 12 37 12 37 12 37 12 37 12 37 12 37 12 37 12 37 12 37 12 37 12 37 12 37 12 37 12 37 12 37 12 37 12 37 12 37 12 37 12 37 12 37 12 37 12 37 12 93.17 1 106.05 1 116.29 111 15 148.84 106.69 125.53 112.37 127.65 111.09 111.21 03/34 03/34 5 08/96 10/96 06/89 04/82 11/34 04/84 2000 32 90000 13 900 151 500 19 500 18 900 444 500 354 | Second | S 118.95 120.09 119.17 112.34 113.33 109.23 110.23 110.23 110.23 110.23 110.23 110.23 110.23 110.23 110.23 110.23 110.23 110.23 110.23 110.23 110.23 110.23 110.23 110.23 110.23 110.23 110.23 110.23 110.23 110.23 110.23 110.23 110.23 110.23 110.23 110.23 110.23 110.23 110.23 110.23 110.23 110.23 110.23 110.23 110.23 110.23 110.23 110.23 110.23 110.23 110.23 110.23 110.23 110.23 110.23 110.23 110.23 110.23 110.23 110.23 110.23 110.23 110.23 110.23 110.23 110.23 110.23 110.23 110.23 110.23 110.23 110.23 110.23 110.23 110.23 110.23 110.23 110.23 110.23 110.23 110.23 110.23 110.23 110.23 110.23 110.23 110.23 110.23 110.23 110.23 110.23 110.23 110.23 110.23 110.23 110.23 110.23 110.23 110.23 110.23 110.23 110.23 110.23 110.23 110.23 110.23 110.23 110.23 110.23 110.23 110.23 110.23 110.23 110.23 110.23 110.23 110.23 110.23 110.23 110.23 110.23 110.23 110.23 110.23 110.23 110.23 110.23 110.23 110.23 110.23 110.23 110.23 110.23 110.23 110.23 110.23 110.23 110.23 110.23 110.23 110.23 110.23 110.23 110.23 110.23 110.23 110.23 110.23 110.23 110.23 110.23 110.23 110.23 110.23 110.23 110.23 110.23 110.23 110.23 110.23 110.23 110.23 110.23 110.23 110.23 110.23 110.23 110.23 110.23 110.23 110.23 110.23 110.23 110.23 110.23 110.23 110.23 110.23 110.23 110.23 110.23 110.23 110.23 110.23 110.23 110.23 110.23 110.23 110.23 110.23 110.23 110.23 110.23 110.23 110.23 110.23 110.23 110.23 110.23 110.23 110.23 110.23 110.23 110.23 110.23 110.23 110.23 110.23 110.23 110.23 110.23 110.23 110.23 110.23 110.23 110.23 110.23 110.23 110.23 110.23 110.23 110.23 110.23 110.23 110.23 110.23 110.23 110.23 110.23 110.23 110.23 110.23 110.23 110.23 110.23 110.23 110.23 110.23 110.23 110.23 110.23 110.23 110.23 110.23 110.23 110.23 110.23 110.23 110.23 110.23 110.23 110.23 110.23 110.23 110.23 110.23 110.23 110.23 110.23 110.23 110.23 110.23 110.23 110.23 110.23 110.23 110.23 110.23 110.23 110.23 110.23 110.23 110.23 110.23 110.23 110.23 110.23 110.23 110.23 110.23 110.23 110.23 110.23 110.23 110.23 110.23 110.23 110.23 110.23 110.23 110.23 110.23 11 为自由中国的下海设计。1960年,1960年,1960年,1960年,1960年,1960年,1960年,1960年,1960年,1960年,1960年,1960年,1960年,1960年,1960年,1960年,1960年,1960年,1960年,1960年,1960年,1960年,1960年,1960年,1960年,1960年,1960年,1960年,1960年,1960年,1960年,1960年,1960年,1960年,1960年,1960年,1960年,1960年,1960年,1960年,1960年,1960年,1960年,1960年,1960年,1960年,1960年,1960年,1960年,1960年,1960年,1960年,1960年,1960年,1960年,1960年,1960年,1960年,1960年,1960年,1960年,1960年,1960年,1960年,1960年,1960年,1960年,1960年,1960年,1960年,1960年,1960年,1960年,1960年,1960年,1960年,1960年,1960年,1960年,1960年,1960年,1960年,1960年,1960年,1960年,1960年,1960年,1960年,1960年,1960年,1960年,1960年,1960年,1960年,1960年,1960年,1960年,1960年,1960年,1960年,1960年,1960年,1960年,1960年,1960年,1960年,1960年,1960年,1960年,1960年,1960年,1960年,1960年,1960年,1960年,1960年,1960年,1960年,1960年,1960年,1960年,1960年,1960年,1960年,1960年,1960年,1960年,1960年,1960年,1960年,1960年,1960年,1960年,1960年,1960年,1960年,1960年,1960年,1960年,1960年,1960年,1960年,1960年,1960年,1960年,1960年,1960年,1960年,1960年,1960年,1960年,1960年,1960年,1960年,1960年,1960年,1960年,1960年,1960年,1960年,1960年,1960年,1960年,1960年,1960年,1960年,1960年,1960年,1960年,1960年,1960年,1960年,1960年,1960年,1960年,1960年,1960年,1960年,1960年,1960年,1960年,1960年,1960年,1960年,1960年,1960年,1960年,1960年,1960年,1960年,1960年,1960年,1960年,1960年,1960年,1960年,1960年, 的是他是我们的原则是这种的原则是这种是这种的原则是这种是我们的是我们的是我们的原则是这种的原则 Limenhagesendagos
Limonification
Lim ,这种是一种,我们是一种,我们是一种,我们是一种,我们是一种的人,我们们是一种的人,我们们的人,我们们的人,我们们的人,我们们们的人,我们们们的人,我们们们们的人,我们们们们的人,我们们们们们的人,我们们们们们的人,我们可以是一种的人,我们们们们是一种的人,我们可以是一种的人,我们们们们是一种的人,我们们们们是一种的人,我们们们们是一种的人,我们们们们是一种的人,我们们们们是一种的人,我们们们们是一种的人,我们们们们是一种的人,我们们们们们们可以可以可以可以可以可以可以可以可以可以可以可以可以 | Seminoriscus | 1985 | 1985 | 1985 | 1985 | 1985 | 1985 | 1985 | 1985 | 1985 | 1985 | 1985 | 1985 | 1985 | 1985 | 1985 | 1985 | 1985 | 1985 | 1985 | 1985 | 1985 | 1985 | 1985 | 1985 | 1985 | 1985 | 1985 | 1985 | 1985 | 1985 | 1985 | 1985 | 1985 | 1985 | 1985 | 1985 | 1985 | 1985 | 1985 | 1985 | 1985 | 1985 | 1985 | 1985 | 1985 | 1985 | 1985 | 1985 | 1985 | 1985 | 1985 | 1985 | 1985 | 1985 | 1985 | 1985 | 1985 | 1985 | 1985 | 1985 | 1985 | 1985 | 1985 | 1985 | 1985 | 1985 | 1985 | 1985 | 1985 | 1985 | 1985 | 1985 | 1985 | 1985 | 1985 | 1985 | 1985 | 1985 | 1985 | 1985 | 1985 | 1985 | 1985 | 1985 | 1985 | 1985 | 1985 | 1985 | 1985 | 1985 | 1985 | 1985 | 1985 | 1985 | 1985 | 1985 | 1985 | 1985 | 1985 | 1985 | 1985 | 1985 | 1985 | 1985 | 1985 | 1985 | 1985 | 1985 | 1985 | 1985 | 1985 | 1985 | 1985 | 1985 | 1985 | 1985 | 1985 | 1985 | 1985 | 1985 | 1985 | 1985 | 1985 | 1985 | 1985 | 1985 | 1985 | 1985 | 1985 | 1985 | 1985 | 1985 | 1985 | 1985 | 1985 | 1985 | 1985 | 1985 | 1985 | 1985 | 1985 | 1985 | 1985 | 1985 | 1985 | 1985 | 1985 | 1985 | 1985 | 1985 | 1985 | 1985 | 1985 | 1985 | 1985 | 1985 | 1985 | 1985 | 1985 | 1985 | 1985 | 1985 | 1985 | 1985 | 1985 | 1985 | 1985 | 1985 | 1985 | 1985 | 1985 | 1985 | 1985 | 1985 | 1985 | 1985 | 1985 | 1985 | 1985 | 1985 | 1985 | 1985 | 1985 | 1985 | 1985 | 1985 | 1985 | 1985 | 1985 | 1985 | 1985 | 1985 | 1985 | 1985 | 1985 | 1985 | 1985 | 1985 | 1985 | 1985 | 1985 | 1985 | 1985 | 1985 | 1985 | 1985 | 1985 | 1985 | 1985 | 1985 | 1985 | 1985 | 1985 | 1985 | 1985 | 1985 | 1985 | 1985 | 1985 | 1985 | 1985 | 1985 | 1985 | 1985 | 1985 | 1985 | 1985 | 1985 | 1985 | 1985 | 1985 | 1985 | 1985 | 1985 | 1985 | 1985 | 1985 | 1985 | 1985 | 1985 | 1985 | 1985 | 1985 | 1985 | 1985 | 1985 | 1985 | 1985 | 1985 | 1985 | 1985 | 1985 | 1985 | 1985 | 1985 | 1985 | 1985 | 1985 | 1985 | 1985 | 1985 | 1985 | 1985 | 1985 | 1985 | 1985 | 1985 | 1985 | 1985 | 1985 | 1985 | 1985 | 1985 | 1985 | 1985 | 1985 | 1985 | 1985 | 1985 | 1985 | 1985 | 1985 | 1985 | 1985 | 1985 | 1985 | 1985 | 1985 | 1985 | 1985 | Control of the Contro 631211570754756531455185222457620113005386151386157586157586157586157586157586157586157586157586157586157586157586157586157586157586157586157586157586157586157586157586157586157586157586157586157586157586157586157586157586157586157586157586157586157586157586157586157586157586157586157586157586157586157586157586157586157586157586157586157586157586157586157586157586157586157586157586157586157586157586157586157586157586157586157586157586157586157586157586157586157586157586157586157586157586157586157586157586157586157586157586157586157586157586157586157586157586157586157586157586157586157586157586157586157586157586157586157586157586157586157586157586157586157586157586157586157586157586157586157586157586157586157586157586157586157586157586157586157586157586157586157586157586157586157586157586157586157586157586157586157586157586157586157586157586157586157586157586157586157586157586157586157586157586157586157586157586157586157586157586157586157586157586157586157586157586157586157586157586157586157586157586157586157586157586157586157586157586157586157586157586157586157586157586157586157586157586157586157586157586157586157586157586157586157586157586157586157586157586157586157586157586157586157586157586157586157586157586157586157586157586157586157586157586157586157586157586157586157586157586157586157586157586157586157586157586157586157586157586157586157586157586157586157586157586157586157586157586157586157586157586157586157586157586157586157586157586157586157586157586157586157586157586157586157586157586157586157586157586157586157586157586157586157586157586157586157586157586157586157586157586157586157586157586157586157586157586157586157586157586157586157586157586157586157586157586157586157586157586157586157586157586157586157586157586157586157586157586157586157586157586157586157586157586157586157586157586157586157586157586157586157586157586157586157586157586157586157586157586157586157586157586157586157586157586157586157586157586157586157586157586157586157586157586157586157586157586157586157586157586157586157586157586157586 他是这个是一个,我们的是一个,我们也是一个,我们也是一个,我们也是一个,我们也是一个,我们也是我们的,我们也是我们也是我们也是我们也是我们的,我们也是我们是一个,我们也是我们是一个,我们也是我们的,我们 8401 10768 27100 6721 11520 11977 25240 10856 12520 10866 10020 11140 8861 10864 金のでは、1000年では ## State | Sta 274060778151444150887881488188786 555855555555887882188856 55585555588 60.000 11.000 12.00 12.00 12.00 12.00 12.00 12.00 12.00 12.00 12.00 12.00 12.00 12.00 12.00 12.00 12.00 12.00 12.00 12.00 12.00 12.00 12.00 12.00 12.00 12.00 12.00 12.00 12.00 12.00 12.00 12.00 12.00 12.00 12.00 12.00 12.00 12.00 12.00 12.00 12.00 12.00 12.00 12.00 12.00 12.00 12.00 12.00 12.00 12.00 12.00 12.00 12.00 12.00 12.00 12.00 12.00 12.00 12.00 12.00 12.00 12.00 12.00 12.00 12.00 12.00 12.00 12.00 12.00 12.00 12.00 12.00 12.00 12.00 12.00 12.00 12.00 12.00 12.00 12.00 12.00 12.00 12.00 12.00 12.00 12.00 12.00 12.00 12.00 12.00 12.00 12.00 12.00 12.00 12.00 12.00 12.00 12.00 12.00 12.00 12.00 12.00 12.00 12.00 12.00 12.00 12.00 12.00 12.00 12.00 12.00 12.00 12.00 12.00 12.00 12.00 12.00 12.00 12.00 12.00 12.00 12.00 12.00 12.00 12.00 12.00 12.00 12.00 12.00 12.00 12.00 12.00 12.00 12.00 12.00 12.00 12.00 12.00 12.00 12.00 12.00 12.00 12.00 12.00 12.00 12.00 12.00 12.00 12.00 12.00 12.00 12.00 12.00 12.00 12.00 12.00 12.00 12.00 12.00 12.00 12.00 12.00 12.00 12.00 12.00 12.00 12.00 12.00 12.00 12.00 12.00 12.00 12.00 12.00 12.00 12.00 12.00 12.00 12.00 12.00 12.00 12.00 12.00 12.00 12.00 12.00 12.00 12.00 12.00 12.00 12.00 12.00 12.00 12.00 12.00 12.00 12.00 12.00 12.00 12.00 12.00 12.00 12.00 12.00 12.00 12.00 12.00 12.00 12.00 12.00 12.00 12.00 12.00 12.00 12.00 12.00 12.00 12.00 12.00 12.00 12.00 12.00 12.00 12.00 12.00 12.00 12.00 12.00 12.00 12.00 12.00 12.00 12.00 12.00 12.00 12.00 12.00 12.00 12.00 12.00 12.00 12.00 12.00 12.00 12.00 12.00 12.00 12.00 12.00 12.00 12.00 12.00 12.00 12.00 12.00 12.00 12.00 12.00 12.00 12.00 12.00 12.00 12.00 12.00 12.00 12.00 12.00 12.00 12.00 12.00 12.00 12.00 12.00 12.00 12.00 12.00 12.00 12.00 12.00 12.00 12.00 12.00 12.00 12.00 12.00 12.00 12.00 12.00 12.00 12.00 12.00 12.00 12.00 12.00 12.00 12.00 12.00 12.00 12.00 12.00 12.00 12.00 12.00 12.00 12.00 12.00 12.00 12.00 12.00 12.00 12.00 12.00 12.00 12.00 12.00 12.00 12.00 12.00 12.00 12.00 12.00 12.00 12.00 12.00 12.00 12.00 12.00 12.00 12.00 12.00 12.00 12.00 12.00 12.00 12.00 12.00 12.00 12.00 12.00 12.00 12. 94.95 124.17 188.07 108.75 359.20 105.33 97.14 108.38 111.78 500 21 500 5 1001 20 1000 189 237 1073) 9145 9191 9991 Commodity & Energy
Costmodity Minimum 1999
HE Grant Pitter 1999
HE Grant 608 60 6071 33 6571 5 753 24 6144 68 614 63 614 33 1000 204 500 10 1000 118 500 8 5000 50 1000 34 1000 4 1000 10 500 57 500 30 500 30 500 30 1000 146 1000 54 1000 10 927 6386 194.40 401.50 44.20 100.40 130.10 77 85 74 37 86 31 79 47 54 81 78 77 41 37

حكذا من الأحل

Insurers 1

## 9/PROPERTY

THE BASEMENT GYM AND POOL

### Often empty, but deep down, it's nice to know it's there

Among those who contributed to the £i bn spent on keeping fit last year there are bound to be backsliders who never so much as sat on an exercise machine. How much easier, then, to be strongminded when the pool and gym are a floor rather than a hike away. Penny Jackson goes in search of fitness fanatics in new housing developments.

(e sides

me

 $\{z_{2n}\}$ 

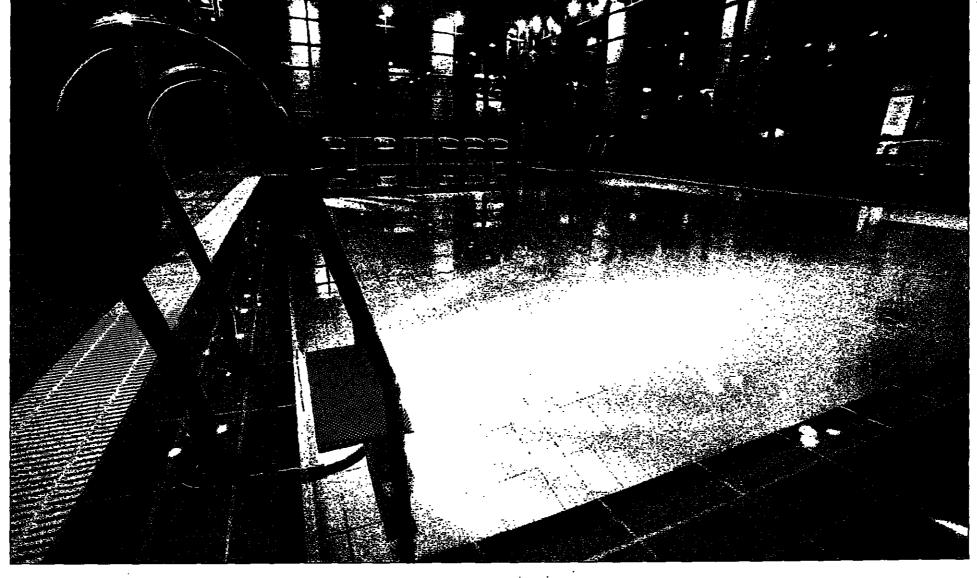
As is obvious from the brochures, developments with their own leisure facilities use them robustly in the marketing material. Some live up to their promise but others are simply a useful way of filling a space in the basement that cannot be used for homes.

Nevertheless, even a cramped gym and small pool go a good way towards meeting the expectations of overseas residents, particularly Americans. They may not use them, but they like to know they are there. In an area where there are good health clubs it is less likely that developments will provide facilities themselves.

Not surprisingly some of the best came with the 1980s expansion into the then desertlike Docklands in east London. At that time swimming pools went in with little thought about how they would affect service charges.

Since then residents have discovered that the upkeep and heating of a reasonable size pool can push service charges up by £1,500 a year, according to Tom Marshall of Cluttons estate agents.

"The fewer the flats the more expensive it becomes and it is not economical on a deflats," he says. "Nobody walks in to ask for a flat because of the facilities, but they like the annual charges at around the



idea of something being thrown in if it doesn't cost too much. Anyway, the trend seems to be to get out and socialise."

On a small development, Gill Lamprell at Knight Frank would expect a £3,500 service charge to drop by a £1,000 if the pool were to be removed. She points out that economy of scale means that a large scheme such as the 420-unit Metro velopment with fewer than 100 . Central in Elephant and Castle, in south London, with pool, gym and steam room can keep

£1,300-mark for a two-bedroom flat.

At some flats, tenants began to find the charges creeping too high. At London Wharf, for instance, on the canal in Hackney, east London, residents elected to close the initially popular exercise area and save money. Given the cost of joining health clubs, if in-house facilities are good enough to tempt residents away from the kudos of club membership they will get their money's worth.

Docklands office, lives in the Bow Quarter development converted from the old Bryant and May factory in east London. He exercises almost every day. "I work late a lot and find it easier to go straight downstairs than take my kit to work and go to a club," he says. There

As one of the largest developments in London - 733 units - it has the usual 24-hour security, full time gym staff, as Luke Doonan, from Savills' well as a pool, steam room and convenient.

are aerobic classes here every

evening and it can get manic."

so on, and yet keeps service charges down to £1,400 for a two-bedroom flat and £1,000 for a one-bedroom loft. "It's also very sociable", Mr Doonan adds. "There's a bar close to the gymnasium and it always has people sitting down there with towels round their heads."

For the focused fitness enthusiast such distractions may be of little interest but many young buyers who work long hours do not want to exercise in lone splendour, however

At Anchorage Point, built in the 1980s on the Isle of Dogs with a particularly nice pool and large gym, no one is fighting over the rowing machines.

Bob Irwin, the building manager, says that it never gets crowded there. "The most I've seen in the pool at once is six. Obviously the complex, which is open from 6.30am to 11pm, is used more in the evenings and weekends but it's generally quiet. The Bank of since its a bit of a novelty." The were popular. I only once had 946 0081

10 us."

service charges for a two-bedroom flat in the complex are just over £3,000.

At the 116-flat Caledonian Wharf, Rotherhithe, where Bob Irwin has also worked, it is rather a different story. The collonaded and self-contained leisure complex faces the Thames, in the centre of the Ushaped development. The glass on three sides makes swimming a more public affair. "It was very sociable and lively there." China use it more than most. Mr Irwin recalls. "Pool parties

The bottom line: the pool at New Caledonia Wharf, Rotherhithe, east London. Charges for such facilities can be high, though many choose not to use them

Photograph: Andrew Buurman

to a put a stop to one when it threatened to get out of hand." A two-bedroom flat there costing £175,000 would have a service charge of £2.231.

The advantage of size is all too obvious when it comes to the Canary Riverside and Millennium Harbour developments under construction in the London Docklands. At Canary Wharf, tennis courts and a health club, spa and swimming pool complex on the river bank are part of the package for those who buy there.

On the other hand, the equally ambitious Millennium Harbour will have state-of-theart leisure facilities that will be open to membership from nonresidents. That is a trend which smaller developments are beginning to favour.

In Wimbledon, south-west London, Espree Health Clubs is running the leisure complex on the entire ground floor of Pathfinder's Wimbledon Central scheme. Those who buy one of the 104 units will get a year's free membership, worth about £1,000. After that, they can choose whether to contribute to the £1bn keep-fit industry, which is expected to grow by a further £250m this year.

Canary Riverside: 0171 591 2388 Millennium Harbour: 0171 488 9586 Wimbledon Central: 0181

Cleaning up: Sue Botterill at the once-flawed house she and her husband have made their home

### The buyer who spotted that subsidence is not the disaster it's cracked up to be

It is the stuff of nightmares. The hairline crack you thought was just an acceptable sign of ageing plaster gradually widens. Then the brickwork follows suit. For many homeowners, panic is the next step. But, as Robert Liebman discovers, for a small band of would-be buyers subsidence is an opportunity, not a problem.

The house had visible subsidence. It had once been divided into two self-contained flats which would have to be restored to a one-family home. And the seller was uppity: exchange in 10 days or the deal was

Eva and Peter Botterill, experienced homebuyers who, with two grown children still in the nest, needed a large property, had no objection to living in Kew Gardens, in London. Most importantly, they needed a bargain and are fearless.

"Roots from a nearby tree had cracked the drain, causing a wall to collapse," Mrs Botterill explains. "An interior wall had a huge crack running through it. But this was a solid 1930s houses. I knew it wasn't going to fall down. And the subsidence had kept the price low."

As work on the Botterill home progresses, a handsome, spacious and sturdy home is emerging. Nevertheless, "subsidence monitoring" as a mortgage condition should serve as a warning to those with tender nerves or thin wallets.

Houses afflicted with subsidence may be heavily discounted. Some buyers in a market starved of quality properties may regard such damaged goods as better than nothing. Actual or would-be speculators

will be attracted to the prospect of big profits when they sell on, while estate agents may well have hard-to-sell properties of that sort on their books. But risks abound, often hidden in complex structural and insurance issues. Professional

information and advice are essential.

Despite the risks, the Botterills had few doubts about the wisdom of their purchase. Originally a three-bedroom semidetached family home, the property had been divided for two elderly sisters. Subsequently inherited by an Australian relative, the house was then bought by a local estate agent. "When we viewed it, the seller told us it was already under offer, and we offered £5,000 more. He accepted, provided we exchanged contracts in 10

days," Mrs Botterill says. "But we were worried about another buyer moving even quicker. The seller had accepted a higher offer from us, so he could accept even more from someone else. He told us other people were interested. I'd have been silly, in a rising market, not to believe him. You can't be

complacent if you want something. "The seller's deadline did not give us much time for surveys so we got a surveyor friend of ours to look at the property. He identified the tree root as the culprit but reassured us that underpinning would not be required." A wall-strengthening procedure known as brick-stitching would suffice.

The couple paid a survey fee of sorts. "He advised us that if he put it in writing and charged us, the building society would take it seriously," Mrs Botterill adds. "If he had said, Don't touch this with a bargepole', his advice would have been free.

And if they had not had a surveyor for a friend? "If you wait for a survey or pick a slow solicitor, you won't get the

property," she insists. "You can't risk going through proper channels in a rising market. If necessary, I would have hired a local surveyor to provide an on-the-spot

survey. Surveyors don't want to lose a fee." Insurance was the next hurdle, "We had to make sure that the previous owner's insurer accepted the claim, so we had to get the benefit of the claim assigned

The Botterills had been living, unhappily, in a rented flat after selling their home in Chiswick. Cash buyers, they nevertheless needed a mortgage for rebuilding work estimated

Mrs Botterill explains that the building society cooperated. But, she adds: They put a full retention on the property to ensure that we reinstated it to a single dwelling - one kitchen, one set of meters. There had to be subsidence

monitoring and professional rebuilding." Ten days is more than adequate for a proper survey involving a drains test and soil sampling, according to Malcolm Hollis, a chartered surveyor. Soil information on specific areas is available from computerised data bases, "and we can also do an anger test at the site to take a plug out of the ground which provides a sample down to perhaps three metres. But surveyors do not have x-ray vision.

There is always a level of risk". Mr Hollis notes: "The downside of simple brick-stitching is that if the foundation is not replaced, and if movement continues because the procedure tackled the symptoms and not the disease, future repairs might be extremely costly and not covered by insurance."

Friendships may also be sorely tested. "Even surveyors can get it wrong," warns Richard Berns, senior partner with a London firm of solicitors, Piper Smith & Hollis, 01700-127000

Basham, "Normally, buyers should check that the surveyor has proper negligence cover for an adequate amount. Preferably, your surveyor sits on the panel of the building society, otherwise the survey might not be accepted."

Mr Berns adds: "Buyers must appreciate that the fact of a subsidence claim has to be disclosed to future purchasers. A history of subsidence will put some potential purchasers off, particularly in a depressed market."

Subsidence usually involves the kind of work that means the home must be vacated. The Botterills cheerfully moved into a building site. Mrs Botterill points to the room that will get new French doors and to the rubble-strewn section of the gar-

den where her kitchen will sprout. She expects to live in tip-like surroundings for three months, followed by three more months of substantial decorating and interior work. "Then we will think about things like whether we want a pond in the garden. We won't be fin-

ished for several years yet," Eva says. The omnipresent skip and the mud and dust are not entirely unwelcome. "We lived in our previous house for 15 years. Peter didn't have the enthusiasm to do it up again, and I was also ready for a change. If you don't change, you stagnate. We now have a project we can actively share for the next five or six years. It's good for us. It's good for our marriage."

For advice on subsidence: Royal Institution for Chartered Surveyors, 12 Great George Street, Parliament Square, London, SWIP 3AD, 0171 222 7000; Association of British Insurers, 51 Gresham Street, London, EC2V 7HQ, 0171-600 3333; Piper Smith & Basham, 31 Warwick Square, London, SWIV 2AF: 0171 828 8685; Malcolm

### Insurers try to ease the pain but the signs this year are ominous

The cost to insurers dealing with that awesome crack in the wall has risen in the past year or two - but is still nowhere. near as bad as it was at the start of the decade. More to the point, it is now easier than it was then to squeeze payment out of

After a period in which out more than £540m to settle year. So far in 1997, the num-

pushed from pillar to post in their increasingly desperate efforts to make their insurance companies accept responsibility for a claim, a settlement system is now up and running.

angry home-owners were

In 1991, says the Association your insurer if it should happen of British Insurers (ABI), its members were forced to shell

subsidence claims. A year later, the number of claims notified to insurance companies still ran to more than 45,000, but the figure claimed for was

Since then, after a period of relative calm, claims have started to mount again, from £125m in 1994 to £326m the following

second half of the year, after dry spells show up those cracks still further, the signs are ominous.

months of last year. Given that eight weeks from the date the surer. far more claims are made in the current company assumed the risk will be dealt with by the former insurer. Claims that are notified

more than eight weeks and But anyone affected by subsidence should not despair, later than one year after the current insurer sold the policy even if insurers have changed is dealt with by that firm. It then after the purchase of a new house. In a deal brokered by the splits the cost of dealing with

ber is higher than in the first six ABI, any claim notified within the problem with the old in-Claims made a year or more

from the date the risk was accepted by the new insurer are deal with exclusively by that

An ABI spokesman says easier for many home-owners. But he admits that subsidence whether it is subsidence and

ple who can forced to wait many months before their problem is dealt with, especially if they are hoping to sell their house in the meantime.

"One of the more demoralising things can be if a compathat makes claims acceptance ny says that it is necessary to wait a few months to check

how it should be dealt with," he says. "It is very hard to do anything about that.

"But the important thing is not to panic. The problem will be dealt with. Having an assessor from the company on site to deal with many of the technicalities is also helpful."

- Nic Cicuto

### An amusing twist on the way up to the bedroom

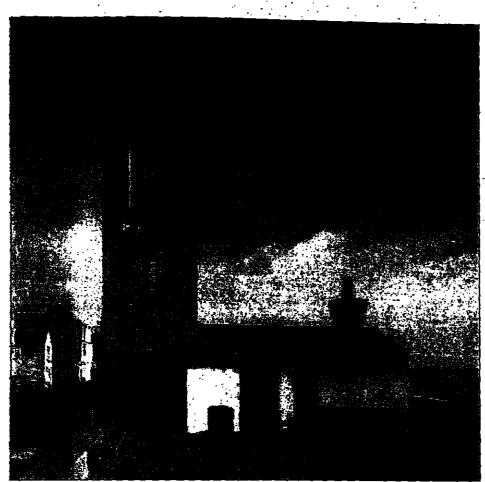
Marginally more userfriendly than a fireman's pole, spiral staircases remain firmly in the fantasies of childless, petless home-owners and architects fitting out ultra-modern warehouse conversions. But, as Rosalind Russell discovers, sometimes it can be the only way to achieve a lofty ambition.

In London, where space is tight, a spiral staircase can link sitting room to gallery, balcony to patio garden or first floor to a loft conversion bedroom. Despite the drawbacks lots of people still find them attractive.

Tony Capon, whose Cambridge-based company Albion Designs produces about 15 spiral staircases a week for the residential and commercial market, finds it is now being asked to supply to builders planning one as a feature in newly built houses. "The largest number of requests are for loft extensions," Mr Capon says. "Supplied and fitted, the cheap-

would be from £2,500." local planning department, as staircases are hedged about bion says. "But really you used to be able to pull old spi- made to link the back of the ther cast iron, which needs reg-

TEL: 0171 293 2222



est would cost around £1,200 A form of improvement: two Albion designs, the one above at Aldeburgh, Suffolk. plus VAT In ornate cast iron, it However, some estate agents warn that spiral staircases are not always suitable

plies with all the regulations." Original Victorian designs

We have a collection of designs which were found in skips, but with specific building regula- have had to be modified as we have had them all copied to tions. "We do offer advice," Al- most are too narrow. "You new sizes. If you wanted one

Anyone considering giving it should have an architect submit ral staircases out of skips," Mr house down to the garden, you a twirl should first consult the drawings to make sure it com- Capon recalls. "Not any more. could pay between £6,000 and £8,000, although some people with large terraces do pay up to £20.000."

Most staircases come in ei-

ular maintenance if it's outside longer but you are stuck with the Cream and white are in now.

and is not to look like the poor old peeling Forth Bridge. But you can paint it in different colours when the mood takes you. A polyester powder coating baked on like car paint lasts

colour, which might chip, but not peel. Albion says colour

preferences have altered. The bright red of a few years ago has vanished along with city brokers' scarlet braces.

If you already own a rusting spiral staircase, DIY restoration is not a Saturday afternoon job. Oxley's Metal Restoration

Services, in Chipping Camden.

the bits and repaint them, from around £800. But you will have to take it to pieces. "They weigh a ton," warns Simon Hudson at Oxley, "but we can come and put it back together for you if you get stuck. It should be fine for another 10 years."

The firm, which also restores steel bicycle frames and cast-iron garden furniture, can supply a new finish in any colour, including bronze, aged gold and old copper.

But maintenance is not really the problem, estate agents say. "Great if you have one on a maisonette on the coast with wonderful views, so you can take advantage of the height without taking up extra square footage," says Stephen King, of Strutt & Parker. Put one in a country cottage and it can almost devalue the property.

BURNES FEET OF

patient of Eries

Yes, why r

مراه إلى إلا الإلاية

E ....

DE mercer de la little

West to the state

ing property

**≷**∉u∵∷

( PR-2) - -

The state of the s

Ser. . . . .

COST TOTAL STREET

75 St. 314 77. 17.

Peter Rawlings, of Foxtons estate agents, agrees. "In a young, trendy two-bedroom apartment, a spiral staircase is a definite advantage," he says. "In a four-bedroom family house it is not. They can be dangerous and awkward for children. They are a good investment in the right atmosphere, say linking a sitting room up to a conservatory. I have seen some wonderfully elegant spiral staircases, but most times they are a pain in the bot."

Albion Designs 01223 836128; Oxley's Restoration Services 01386 840466; Strutt & Parker 0171 823 2899; Foxtons 0171 590

FAX: 0171 293 2505

PROPERTY: RESIDENTIAL Loft Conversions Contemporary A NEW STYLE OF LIVING **ROOF PROBLEMS SOLVED** SPACE SPECTACIIIAR ON THE NORTH BANK SW1 PERMANENTLY! London OFTS **Fields** London Lane Hackney The Morocco Store • Stop nail fatigue • Stop leaks and co Prestigious Houses 1 Leathermarket Street SE1 VOLUME Replaces damaged or no underfeld
 SAVE UP TO 80% HEAT LOSS FOR THE DISCERNING EXECUTIVE 755 - 1,480 sq.ft. Prices from £77,500 to £130,000 (ac val) Bulvaird Place. Eight prestiguus houses offering premier GUARANTEED FOR 25 YEARS A LIDEARDS AND SHITTER MANY COLUMN 2 5 0171-403 0600 Shell & Fitted security and games parking in SW1. Four-bedroomed ROOF RENOVATION AT A FRACTION OF properties are available for rental now from around \$1,000 THE COST OF RE-ROOFING Terraces & Big Views Retirement Homes per week exclusively through Chestertons Residential. TRS LTD are recommended by the foam manufacturers and apply only the Garage Parking, 999 Yrs. ighest quality systems available. Recognised by the B.B.A. and used in loca -- v.. **(()** 1111 ---Russell Baldwin authorities, agriculture and industrial buildings, schools, churches, hospitals, CHESTERTONS £150k - £450k & Bright barns and thousands of residential properties 0171 834 9998  $\star$  ALL AT PRICES THAT DON'T GO THROUGH THE ROOF  $\star$ Launch this Weekend BUY DIRECT - CUT OUT THE MIDDLEMAN I have the hand to be a direction of the section of Sat. 15th & Sun. 16th: 12 - 4pm 01832 293771 0171 403 0600 Send the coupon today FREEPOST (no stamp required) to: TRS LTD, FREEPOST ANG3321, HUNGTINGDON, PE1 7BR www.waterhouse.uk.com I YES! Please arrange a brochure and FREE SURVEY

HEREFORDSHIRE

OFFERS IN THE RECION OF

reception runn, billistric voin.
4 bed, 2 bath, B. Child well
maintained growth of 1/2 acre
Well connected. The d art rail

£250.000

0171 293 2037

面量值

#### Tel: 01432 266663 Sell your home for as little THE INDEPENDENT INDEPENDENT as £50 per advertisement

NEAR TENBURY WELLS,

WORCESTERSHIRE

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF

Advertise your property through the Independent and Independent on Sunday's CRANBROOK highly successful Property Gallery, a marketplace that is tried, tested and works. The advertisement appears in the Saturday Your Money or the Sunday Business sections. Your property will appear in the format shown here, with 40 words of

description complemented by a full colour photograph of your home.

#### The Cost

The more advertisements you book the cheaper the cost per ad:-

1 x Advertisement costs £95

2 x Advertisements cost £130 (£65 each)

3 x Advertisements cost £150 (£50 each)

Fill in this coupon and send payment, a colour photograph and up to 40 words of copy to: The Property Team, Classified Advertising, 19th Floor, Independent Newspaper, 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E145DL

Deadline for receipt of copy/photo is at least 6 working days prior to publication.

Offer open to private advertisers only, commercial advertising package available on request.

.... TELEPHONE (daytime). I require | 1 2 3 3 (took appropriate book) Advertisement(s) at a total cost of £

Please enclose a cheque for this amount made payable to 'Newspaper Publishing Ptc' or fill in your Visa/Access/Amew/Diners Club details: CREDIT CARD NO LILLIAM EXPIRY DATE For advice or more information please call 'The Property Team' on 0171-293 2343 or 0171-293 2302

CHAPEL FOR PROFESSIONAL . CONVERSION COUPLE REQ'D

Muswell Hill/5 mins E. Finchley Tube Studio flat/Loft conversion within a hed flat, en suite, wc. shower, pine floors, Immediate move needed £690 pcm Cull Nick 0171 293 2442 (day) or 0467 371145

£127,000 0171 231 3132

Commercial RELGIUM-BRUSSELS: For as BELGIDA-BRUSSELS: For esti: Investment property with offices and workshops Renting return: up to 11,7% Location: on a major read. Price 21,700,000 Sale Agency: CAPICO Tel: 0032/22,28,15,70 Percentia: 0032/75,26,46,62. BELGIUM: SRUSSELS: For sick ? building with offices 1,350cgm and found in construction zone for poweities.

gred sint in construction gave for possible of control of control 2,381cqm=3731sqm. Commer-cial location beside the ring road to Brusteis. Price : 1,009,000. Lucary building. Sale agency: CAPICO Tet: 0332/2 229.15.70. Fax: :0032/2 229,15.71. Poytable: 0032/75.26.46.62.

Auctions

PUBLIC AUCTION for the deposit of RESALE TIMESHARES Reserves from £100 00 Dept. 1. The White House 0181 339 0010

To advertise in the Property Section please call Albert Blackburn on 0171 293 2343 or Zara White on 0171 293 2302.

TACULAR LOFTS HARROW ROAD, W9

London Property



Only 4 units remaining, all double height with mezanines, ranging 1100-1300 sq. ft. per unit, roof gardens, industrial lift, electronic skylight windows, parking

999 Year Leases Prices from: £167,500 - £179,500 Telephone 0171 724 4404

JOLDSCHMIDT

Overseas Property PIMLICO SPAIN - FLOREN - FRANCE - PORTREAL CARECE - CTPAIR - MELANO - CALY, STC FLAT FREE MAGAZINES decision fist, parte, 2 beds, freng snez, idichen, davoan, dorwer im, small stady. Good doc. arder. 5205,000 ook. For your ISE copy and 9601-542 total or you'r ISE on the AMBERGATORY COPY PROJECTION FOR THE PARTY IN THE COPY PARTY PA



SW5
A spicadid 2 bed, 2 bed, top fir
flat, offering lots of potential and
views over partiess £339,99
BOLTON GARDENS SW5
Newly related 2 disk beds, 2 betts,
soon fully listed kinden forestdart
from flower. 0171 370 4343,

### HOUSE SITTING

### Say hello to the cat, live in the lap of luxury, and then get paid



careful about who he takes on to

his books and checks work records

going back 20 years, following up

all references. Ageism is not a

word he knows. "All my sitters are

Helen Wright's approach is de-

cidedly more casual. She gener-

stay addresses, they should con-

a five-bed luxury family home and

had friends round for dinner

practically every night for five

"I made the most of living in

sider her hidden expenses.

Money, and the rest: Colin and jo Munro, two of William Lewis's team, on the watch at a property

Photograph: Andrew Hasson

Fancy living in the lap of iuxury without spending a bean? Even better, how about actually getting paid for it? For a small band of people this is one of the perks of their job. Except that, as Fiona Brandhorst discovers, you will have to move out after a while. And not every property carries that exclusive cachet.

Working for the stars is almost as good as being one. At least that is what Phil Swaine, an "executive house sitter", lists as one of the perks of his successful business. Along with his partner, Alison Verity, he spends his days looking after secluded luxury homes when the owners are away on business or holiday.

"When potential clients see our portfolio their eyes light up," says Mr Swaine, whose references read like television credits. Ms as the likes of Dennis Waterman

and Bob Monkhouse. "It's a 24-hour job at times." he says, "but we work together so it's not restricting." But is it tempting to spend hours soaking in the indoor swimming pool or Jacuzzi? "You soon get fed up with all that," Mr Swaine says. "When you've been up since 5am surveying the estate, all you want to

do is lock up and go to bed."

On behalf of his Yorkshirebased firm, ASG Executive Security, he visits all his clients before taking on the work and charges by the week, starting at around £500 depending on the size of the property and work required when he is there. Living in such year-round luxury, Phil and Alison take only the odd day out on their less-than-palatial narrowboat.

"We could be in a huge farmhouse one week and a £5m property the next, so there's no point in going away on a proper holiday ourselves." Do they get the chance to network with the stars? "Sometimes we get invited to our clients'

William Lewis's live in council flats as well as country homes. Since starting Home and Pet Care around 10 years ago, he concludes that people are more concerned about their pets than their home when they go away.

And it can mean more than just feeding and stroking the cat, Mr Lewis says. "One of my most experienced sitters looked after a large property in Gloucestershire. On day one there were 165 animals to care for, including five expensive dogs, horses and goats. over 50 - they're just more reli-But as the days went by, animals able." started giving birth so the numbers were rising by about 10 a day."

Mr Lewis now has 250 people working for him all round the country, from St Ives to Inverness. He was not sure how to get in touch with possible sitters when he started, so he advertised in retirement magazines and church newspapers. It paid off: most of his sitters are Saga types, generally former pet owners, trying to fill the big bole in their lives that retirement has brought. Pre-

Mr Lewis's house sitters always just to have a look. "It was owned meet their intended clients beby a really wacky couple who had forehand and there is no comloads of 60s and 70s stuff. The funmitment on either side. The cost niest thing was a four-tiered shelf is from £17 a day. "Not only are unit covered with nodding dogs, people's pets looked after in their lions and elephants. Every time I came down the stairs the whole lot own home but no one with a sitter has been burgled either," he started going." says. With that in mind, he is is Insurance companies general-

ly do not ask questions about who is staying in your house when you are away, unless it is going to be for more than 30 days. Then the excess payable on any claim can increase considerably. While most of us rely on neigh-

bours to keep an eye on things while we are away, when there is ally sits for friends of friends and more at stake it is time to call in has been lucky enough to be the professionals. JPB Security asked when she has been home-Services provides rapid response less between flats. But before security guards to patrol houses anyone starts ear-marking shortdeep in the Surrey stockbroker belt. "When there is £100,000 worth of antiques in a property, people have to take security seriously," says JPB's managing di-

Even for an ex-police dog hanweeks," she says. "I may have dler it can be a scary business. "I Verity has a way with horses so social events and we never know dictably, Mr Lewis has a Mr and saved my rent but I blew it all on had a client who'd been given a ASG Executive Security (01943) they pull in a lot of work from who's going to be there - I have Mrs Woof on his books and a dog entertaining." The next time she death threat written in blood. 1 871 813); Home and Pet Care "To admit, we cally that." " that needs a bilingual companion house-sat she cut the dinner par-" had to personally go and stay with " (016974 78515); TPB Security Ser-Unlike Mr Swaine's clients, as it only understands French. ties but still invited friends over his wife and family in a very se-vices (01483 776999)

rector John Berry.

cluded property when he went away on business. It did get a bit tricky." Mr Berry advises people to only use security companies that are members of trade associations. "You can be sure they'll follow strict codes of training and oper-

A house sitter may feel confident when left in a strange house with a trusty list of emergency telephone numbers pinned to the noticeboard, but it is what the owners do not tell them that can be most worrying.

Vicky Magill house-sat for a friend this summer. The house had all the usual accessories - electric gates, heated swimming pool, sauna and gym. But by the end of the three weeks she was convinced about something else. In the middle of the night one of the televisions would mysteriously turn itself on. She checked for a time switch or a remote control but could only come to one conclusion. She was also looking after a



PENNY **JACKSON** 

#### The price mechanism pricks sellers' inflated hopes

Some mortgage rates have risen this week and certainly in London and the South-east the property market has slowed down. But what does this mean to the regular buyer and

The fact that the number of Far Eastern investors has tailed off does not help the person selling a four-bedroom house in Tunbridge Wells. Clearly the inclination for buyers to panic has gone. Homes are not selling as fast, there are fewer buyers around and a healthier supply of properties on agents' books.

This is partly seasonal, of course, but it all sounds far less stressful than the spring story when good property was selling within days for well over the asking price. The London estate agents, Winkworth, find that some vendors have not quite caught up with the current mood. There are those who are only putting their own homes on the market after they have found something to buy, expecting it to move immediately. That is simply not happening," says Hilary Wade, a director. "It is not that we are seeing prices falling but that buyers are not prepared to pay silly prices for a property that has been over-valued."

Apparently, discerning buyers prefer a spectacular one-bedroom flat to a run-of-themill two bedroom. It may not be of much comfort for those families desperately seeking a good-size house, but the number of instructions for flats has doubled this year according to Winkworth.

Meanwhile, other London evidence comes from Trevor Abrahmsohn of Glentree Estates, who has noted quite a change from a few months ago, when "a full-priced property was snapped up by one or other of a frenzied group, open cheque books ready to do business".

Now the pendulum is swinging towards a more balanced arrangement of buyers and sellers. "We are now taking property on to our books at full prices which are remaining unsold. For the first time in recent months vendors are asking us why properties have not sold as they anticipated. Mostly this is due to overpricing by the sellers themselves."

In the country, according to the marketing company The London Office, the story is similar. Estate agents find one of the biggest problems is the over-inflated opinions vendors have of their homes. "Even though there is considerable demand for country properties of all types, prices generally are beginning to plateau but vendors still feel their property has a higher value than those being advised by our member firms," Bob Bickersteth says.

Spotting an up-and-coming area of London is a game everyone can play, some with more success than others. Savills Research has long tipped the Paddington area as ripe for growth over and above what is usual. Yolande Barnes, at Savills, believes the most crucial factor to be the high-speed rail link to Heathrow. Many people favour South Kensington simply because of its Tube connection to the airport.

She also points to the essentially good stock of housing which at present is more than likely to be a somewhat seedy hotel. It has already started to come up, but the stock has the potential to be prime, she says.

"Take Sussex Gardens, tree-lined with lovely houses - it could be absolutely beautiful. The area is also on the borders of the Hyde Park estate, Kensington and Notting Hill which is another big factor." Winkworths considers the area's gentrification inexorable and has opened a Paddington and Bayswater office. There are little mews houses and flats and the colonisation of the better-known estate agents can increase the supply of stock, which is very short there," Ms Barnes adds.

### Yes, why not think about buying in time for Christmas?

The market may be slowing down in the run-up to Christmas, but demand for homes is still running high, mortgage lenders report. Nic Ciastti finds out whether now is the time to look for your dream property.

It is often said that there are defined home viewing and buying seasons. Viewing is typically something that takes place in the New Year, immediately after the festivities have ended, as prospective purchasers resolve to act on their resolutions.

Offers to buy and subsequent completions of the property transactions is then assumed to take place in the

summer hiatus, as people go on holiday, followed by a renewed bout of activity in the early autumn, on people's return from their breaks. November and December are supposedly lighter months, when evenings draw longer and few are inclined to traipse round dark, wei streets.

Does the same still apply? Not if you look at the latest statistics. Figures from Barclays Mortgages, a major lender, suggest that an autumn buying peak is becoming established, almost as strong as the traditional spring buying surge.

The lender's research suggests that mortgage lending rose by 10 per cent from October 1996 to the same month this year. This compares with growth of 15 per cent in the 12 the improvement in lending is

spring. Thereafter there is a months to April. Admittedly, extending beyond the Souththis shows buying still lags behind, but not that much.

The best comparison is to judge the autumn sales against the increase for sales in the rest of the year to date. Average year-on-year growth in the past 10 months stands at 11 per cent, making the autumn season only marginally lower than the rest of the year, including the peak period.

Confirming trends noted by many other surveys, including the key ones from both the Halifax and Nationwide Building Society, plus estate agents, the areas where growth in mortgage lending has been felt most keenly is London and East Anglia. But this survey also points to fast growth in the Northwest, pointing to the fact that

east of England. Jim Chadwick, Barclays

Mortgages marketing director, says: "What we are now seeing is a mortgage market which has recovered from the doldrums of the early to mid-Nineties. Despite the increases in interest rates there have been this year, stability seems to be encouraging people to move home. This is proving to be a good time to buy or move."

Barclays' research is based on an index which measures gross new mortgage advances that flow through solicitors' deposit accounts.

Typically, home buyers who arrange a loan will deal with a solicitor who arranges the legal paperwork and passes on the purchase price to the vendor. Barclays has a 30 per cent market share of these accounts, which means that it is able to monitor the flow of funds coming from the full range of

The key question many buyers will be asking is whether this is really the time for them to venture out into the cold to look at another property. Here, the survey evidence

lenders in the market.

points to the fact that, compared to three months ago, fewer consumers expect house prices to rise, although a maiority still believes they will go up in the next 12 months.

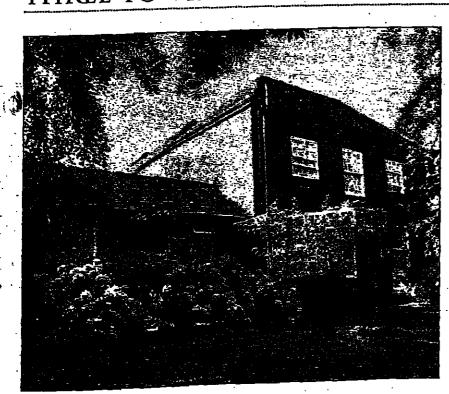
The message appears to be that potential vendors are less likely than before to believe that by holding their properties back they will easily be able to get a vastly better price.

Buyers are still there: for every 10 properties on the market in the North there are 19 people looking to buy, compared to 24 in the Midlands and 20 in the south-East of England. Hopefully, the combination of these two features will lead to reasonable prices being set.

It may also lead to a partial weakening of old, pessimistic assumptions about placing a property on the market in November. For those who think Christmas is all about presents, roast turkeys, port and stuffing, it still will be - but perhaps in a new home.

The Independent has published a free 27-page 'Guide to Mortgages', written by Nic Cicutti, the paper's personal finance editor. The guide, sponsored by Barclays Mortgages, is available to all readers by calling 0800 585691. Or fill in the coupon on page 4.

### THREE TO VIEW/ UNDER £100,000



Number 4, Post Office Row, in Shottenden, Kent, is a period cottage in a quiet commuters' village on the North Downs. The community is only six miles from Faversham and the regular train service to London. The end-of-terrace two-bedroom house is set back from a small lane and screened by a high hedge. Calcutt MacLean (01233 812060), the agent, is asking £95,000.



The Old School in Nutbourne, Hampshire, dates from around 1880 - before school milk made everybody taller: the current ceiling height on the ground floor is only 5ft llins. Used as a school after 1880, it was later converted into a three-bedroom cottage, but now needs total modernisation. With courtyard garden and garage, it is for sale through Henry Adams (01243 377773) for £95,000.



Number 1, Tower Cottages at Hilders Cliff, Rye in East Sussex, is Grade II listed and stands in the lee of the Landgate in the Cinque Ports town. The two-bedroom brick-built cottage has exposed timber frame, open fireplace in the sitting room and panelling to dado height. The rear garden is paved and has a fountain, gazebo and small workshop. £90,000 through Phillips & Stubbs (01797 227338).

LAND ROVER FREELANDER

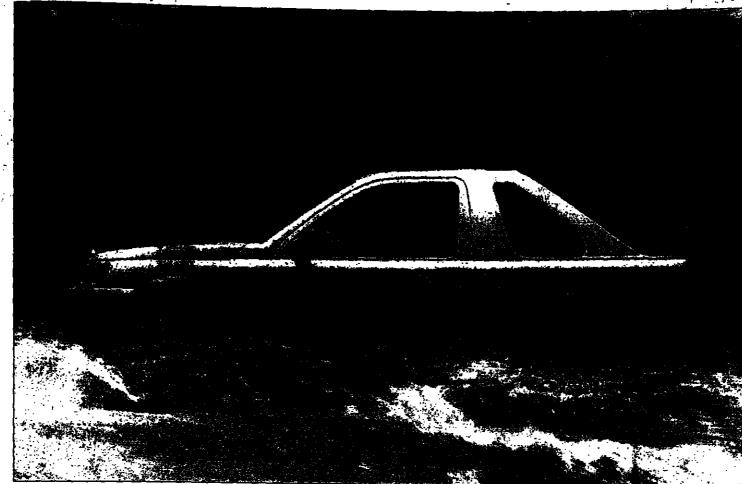
### King off the road

if you were a Japanese maker of fashion-heavy 4x4s, you will have been dreading this

moment. People who like your cars probably like the idea of a Land Rover, but the real thing is too big or too expensive, so they buy a toy version instead. Trouble is, writes John Simister, Land Rover has now come up with a toy version of its own.

The Land Rover Freelander is compact, car-like in its driving feel, more thoroughly engineered than any Land Rover before it, and it proudly displays that famous badge on nose and tail. Land Rover, maker of the original, copies the copies and makes it better. Result? Full circle, and a new original.

Unlike former Land Rovers, but like the Toyota RAV4 and Honda CR-V, the Freelander has a car-like combined body/chassis structure instead of a separate chassis. This makes it lighter, lower, easier to assemble accurately and better able to cushion its occupants in a crash. That might surprise some people, who think a solid chassis frame is safer, but the important thing is to slow the occupants' deceleration on impact as much as possible. Otherwise you'll have an unsquashed car containing squashed people. So, that's one myth exploded. Another is that off-roaders will always have a bumpy ride and vague steering, because the Freelander has neither. It's the most car-like of current offroaders, smooth, quiet and with excellent handling thanks to proper independent



Freelander: Land Rover's debut in the recreational off-road market looks set to become the benchmark

suspension. The 1.8-litre K-series petrol engine is the livelier of the two power units on offer, but the 2.0-litre L-series turbodiesel is a better bet for lugging loads over slippery surfaces off-road, and is likely to be more popular.

Off-road, it's a Land Rover, so it had better be good. And it is, Peer underneath the Freelander, and you will see thick, tough suspension arms and plenty of protection for vital components. Power goes to all four wheels as required; the front wheels do most of the work most of the time, but as they lose their grip the power is diverted rearwards via a viscous coupling.

What it does not have is an extra set of low-gear ratios for steep slopes and cautious picking of ways. Too confusing, reckons Land Rover, for the hordes of people who will be forsaking their conventional cars and heading for a new

Freelander. Instead of the low ratios the Freelander has a Hill Descent Control, which causes the anti-lock brakes to be applied automatically and keep the speed below 5.6mph (or 4.4mph if the track is bumpy or bendy). That way, you won't toboggan away out of control.

You activate the HDC by pushing down on a yellow collar just below the gear-lever knob, and you'll hear many clickings and whirrings as it does its stuff. What it can't do, though, is compensate for the difficulty the Freelander has in going slowly up a hill, because neither engine has enough pull at very low revs. Instead, you have to hurl the Land Rover at the gradient, and hope for the best. Still, I doubt if many owners will get to

the stage where they rue this failing. This smallest Land Rover comes in two body shapes: a five-door estate car and a three-door which looks shorter, but isn't. Both have bash-proof plastic Freelander Station Wagon di Specifications

Price: £18,995. Engine: 1,998cc turbodiesel, four cylinders, eight valves, 97bhp at 4,200rpm. Five-speed gearbox, fourwheel drive. Top speed 96mph, 0-60 in 14.6sec. Fuel consumption: 32-37mpg.

Honda CR-V, £17,020: Car-like driving er. As you might expect, there's a big qualities, but lacks substance. No diesel. Jeep Cherokee 2.5 TD Sport, £19,495: Square-cut and dated. Subaru Forester, £16,400: Not as capable off-road but surprisingly sporty. Suzuld Vitara 2.0 V6 5-door, £16,200:

Refined engine but conceptually crude. Toyota RAV4 GX five-door, £17,463: Lively performance but lacks substance. Vauxhall Frontera 2.8 TD Estate, £20,640: Big diesel engine, but slower and much cruder than Freelander.

# GAVIN GREEN

### The first faltering steps of the Baby Benz

How the mighty fall -or. in this case, roll. Mercedes-Benz, a motoring exemplar that stands for solidity, safety and "engineering like no other car in the world", has had its latest model exposed for tipping over at only 40mph, and for being about as steady as Jeffrey Bernard after a session at the Coach and Horses. The new A-class - the "Baby Benz" - has been an unmitigated PR disaster for a company which hitherto has been as cushioned from bad publicity as most of its owners are from poverty.

While Mercedes undoubtedly has a problem. and the world's media enjoys some schadenfraude at the expense of Germany's biggest company, it's worth putting things in perspective. A Swedish motoring magazine tipped an A-class during severe "moose avoidance" tests on a frozen road in Scandinavia at 40mph. What's missing, from most of the accounts, is that the car had five people and 800lb of luggage - equivalent to three Mike Tysons - in the boot. In a car the size of a Metro, that may be a little over the top. None of the five passengers suffered more than superfi-

cial injuries. Later, for the benefit of photographers, another A-class was blasted around cones on a dry track in Germany and got up on two wheels. Yet there are allegations that - to get the spectacular shots - the car was fitted with odd-sized tyres to

encourage a flip. Before the Swedish 'moose test", an estimated 1,400 journalists had tested the A-class and, as far as I'm aware. none had criticised the car's stability. The TUV - Germany's equivalent of the AA - commended the car's handling. Equally, Mercedes' own test drivers had racked up 3 million test miles using 500 different cars. Critically, none of Mercedes' testers had done the "moose test" - a major oversight, as this is normally standard practice, despite the fact it's meaningless outside frozen

northern countries. Reports that Mercedes has made engineering cutbacks, to compete with tival mass makers on price, probably hold more than a grain of truth.

For me, the A-class fiasco raises many issues. Is it realistic to condemn a car as dangerous, when it fails an unusual manoeuvre unlikely ever to be reproduced in real-world conditions? A number of cars on sale right now would probably fail a similar assault - or at least display unnerving instability if packed to the gunwales and swerved violently on frozen roads.

Which cars? Simple any which are unusually tall. The law of physics is immutable. A tall car with a comparatively small road area – such as many smaller MPVs and 4x4s -is likely to roll over, in extremis, at speeds which would see normal saloons or coupé's stay on all fours. Can you imagine how a London bus would fare in the Scandinavian moose test? Yet tall and usually space-efficient cars have many attractions - not least, like a bus, that they can carry many people while occupying only a small road area.

The A-class has now. been temporarily withdrawn from production, while various chassis modifications are made. It is probably an over reaction by Mercedes, as much PR stunt as a serious attempt to re-engineer the car.

100 4 75 " 1 " - 4 . 4 8 m h

PROPERTY OF THE PARTY AND ADDRESS.

وه م سري د س دره و دره و

BE 25 ....

Contact the medical of

Bridge To State of

US attack of

be delayed

CD-Rom ro

Budget win

Oxbridge b

Man Proposition of the Party

The state of the said

**印度** (在1000年)

It may also not be enough. The "fixes" are still largely superficial; this small and tall car will still be less stable, on the limit, than a normal safoon. And come February, emerges from the factory, new bill of health proudly attached to windscreen, motoring journalists around the world will all be doing their "moose tests", photographers ever present, hoping to get some great footage of the A-class on tippy toe. If they succeed, the baby Benz may even be stillborn. And one of the eleverest new car concepts - even if its execution this time is flawed may be lost for years.

### hobby horse to work-horse: the bulletproof original lives on

An old Land Rover is still the best off-roader money can buy, believes James Ruppert.

bought an ex-US Army four-wheel-drive Jeep for use on his estate in Anglesey in 1945. When asked by his brother Spencer, also a Rover director, what he would replace the Jeep with when it wore out, he replied: "Another Jeep."

In the "export or die" post-war climate of steel rationing, there was a world-wide need for farm machinery. The Wilks brothers realised that a Rover version of the Jeep could satisfy this demand and provide the company with much needed funds.

Born out of necessity the result was a vehicle with a corrosion-resistant aluminium body, supported by a simple chassis and powered by a gutsy engine. The first 25 Land Rovers rolled off the production line in late 1947. Fifty

years later the company could not have strayed further from its utilitarian roots with the luxury specification Range Rover, urban estate car Discovery and recreational Freelander. However, an old Land Rover is still the best off roader that not too much mor

Although the Land Rover story has been one of constant development, the Series 1 and 2 are too crude for most practical, non-farmyard purposes. Now regarded as classics, they are for diebard enthusiasts only. Series 3s are the models that took Land Rover into the 20th century. A proper dashboard, decent heating and ventilation, even space for a radio. Mechanically, a synchromesh gearbox and heavy duty clutch made life easier and a galvanised

chassis promised a long and useful life. With the 90 and 110 in 1983 the most basic Land Rover got comfortable coil spring suspension, just like Range Rovers. The body also received the biggest revamp since the 1940s with reshaped windows, slatted grille and an owner, or hire an expert to go with to drop below £1,500, and realistical-



Second-hand Land Rovers are still a force to be reckoned with

name change to Defender.

Appraising a Land Rover is not for the faint hearted. At the very least take

plastic wheelarch protectors, before a you. The other principle to grasp is that there is no such thing as a cheap Land Rover, only one that will cost a fortune to restore. A serviceable one is unlikely

front wings, and the three-door has nov-

el sloping rear pillars between which can

fit either a soft convertible top, or a sol-

id roof. Neat details abound, such as a

high-level brake-light mounted on a stalk

and shaped as a Land Rover badge, and

rear lights held on with chunky screws

like those on Farmer Giles's Defend-

range of Freelander accessories of what

. The Freelander is not perfect: it gets

stuffy without the optional air condi-

tioning, there's no seat-height adjust-

ment, the horn is feeble and the

dashboard looks dated. But no rival 4x4

is as solid or as civilised, whether in

looks or demeanour. Why it has tak-

en so long is hard to fathorn, but if you

want a compact off-roader you won't

find a better one than this.

you might call a lifestyle nature.

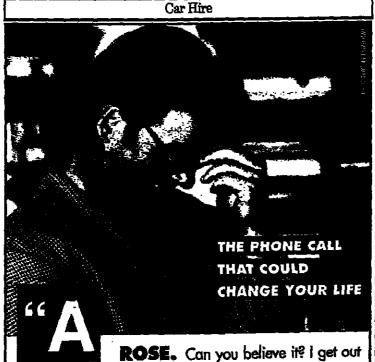
ly £2,000 to £3,000 is the ideal amount to pay at the lower end of the scale. Because the Land Rover has been

around since the beginning of time itself, there are thousands to choose from, but don't worry if you can't find exactly what you want. A good used Land Rover must have three things: a good gearbox, a sound chassis and minimal rust. The rest you can change.

But if you don't fancy hard work someone like Keith Gott will do it for you. He buys ex-MoD and public service Land Rovers, which have been maintained properly, then rebuilds them to your specification. Prices can start at £3,000. You can also turn up good examples from the newspapers. I found a Series 3 petrol version with a full year's tax and MOT, rear seats and a very healthy sounding set of mechanicals for £1.600. And I bet it will still be running as sweetly in 50 years.

Keith Gott 01420 544330. The Association of Rover Clubs - 0161 4568224.

### MOTORING



of work and she's standing there with this silly grin on her face, holding a rose. She says it's for our one week anniversary. Yeah, I could get used to this. 77

> To place your own FREE personal ad, call 0800 216 318

Voice personals

Registration Numbers S. CROPLEY PRO INE

LAU ES 800 PDA 76 2,200

LAU ES 800 PDA 76 2,200

LEP 227 1,500 RR 3758 2,800

LS 7772 2,200 SAD 196 L800

2 MA 6,000 SJ 3 2,800

MI 270 4,400 6866 SM 5,000

MI 180 1,200 RS 550 SM 4,000

MI 180 2 1,200 6866 SM 5,000

MI 180 2 1,200 748 SMD L800

BB MX 800 8 TES 2,800

BB MX 800 8 TES 2,800

BB MX 800 TV 321 2,500

NN 4490 L300 TV 321 2,500

NN 4490 L300 TV 321 2,500

PC 88 2,800 G USA 2,500

PC 88 2,800 WE 550 L300

RG 88 1,400 WE 550 L400

RG 88 1,000 WE 550 L400 Renault

RENAULT LAGUNA 2.0s 1997 (P) Adriatic blue (metallic superglass paint). abs, pas, engine immobiliser, drivers a/bag, remote c/l, e/w, s/r, and mirrors.

Sports pack includes body coloured spoiler and wing mirrors, sports seats and upholstery. Full warranty and RAC cover to March 2000 included.

18,000 miles Immaculate condition. £12,250 ono. Tel: 01279 850502

Citroen

independent Readers Will Know I Good Buy Vinen They See One Xautia SX Turbo Diesei Estate P Reg, Ar Con Full History, No Catchi Two Years Wenterty £13,495 01442 871234 (Main De

Xantia LX 1.81 Estate Hermes Ked or Polar White 11,000 miles P Reg. Air Con Full History. Two Years Warranty. Srt. Months Tax £10,995 with £750 Min PX 01442 871234

#### MY WORST CAR/JENNY AGUTTER'S FIAT 500

### Not all good things come in little packages

I had all these Minis for ages and ages. I remember that when it came to my driving test you had to know hand signals, but I didn't think I would have to do them and I couldn't work out whether to out my hand through the front part of the slide window or what.

Then I got myself a Fiat -I think it was the Fiat 500. It was little, about the smallest car you could get.

I can't remember how much I would have paid for it - this was about 20 years ago - but it would probably have been about £100. I always buy cars second-hand. I've had some good ones, but a run of really bad ones as well.

The Fiat was constantly breaking down. This wire would come off the battery and it was happening all the time and I would have to get out and go and bit it.

And people were always having to push-start me. There was one occasion when I was going somewhere and I can't remember why but Germaine Greer was in the car. She's quite a tall lady and she'd sort of folded herself in. We were going down into an underpass and the car



Fiat's sophisticated gravity-assisted starter meant you had to park facing downhill

wasn't really working, but fortunately it picked up again when we went up the other side. You learnt all these

With that car it was terribly important to park it

because you knew you would get some impetus to get going. I didn't have it for very long because it did run into so many problems, I was living in Streatham (south London) at the time and I think it just got left by the

side of the road in the end.

Jenny Agutter will be appearing in the Christmas production of 'Peter Pan' at. the Royal National Theatre, London. She was speaking to